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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Lawmakers to summon Muña, board

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

Lawmakers are set to summon the top executive of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and its advisory board to separate meetings to discuss possible reforms of an earlier bill on health care.

In a joint committee meeting Tuesday, members of the health committees from the Senate and House of Representatives agreed to invite CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña on Feb. 18, while the board will be in-

See LAWMAKERS on Page 4

NMI caps first pandemic response exercise

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

A three-day full-scale exercise that tested local capabilities in response to a virus outbreak ended yesterday afternoon, with many of the participants describing it as a successful undertaking.

Today, Feb. 6, will focus on what problems were captured during the first ever pandemic influenza exercise and what needs to be done in the future.

The exercise, which began

See EXERCISE on Page 4

A Division of Public Health staff, a Northern Marianas College nursing student, and a Department of Fire and Emergency Services personnel attend to a "victim" who fainted, as part of a scenario in the ongoing exercise. This was done during the point of distribution exercise wherein "patients" were processed and vaccinated in a simulated "pandemic" response environment.

JAYSON CAMACHO

Wendi Herring back as Kanoa Resort GM

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Herring

After some time off, Wendi Herring—a former Pacific Islands Club executive—returns to the "people business" she loves, as Kanoa Resort's new general manager.

Returning to Saipan, she said, "feels like coming home."

Her first day as GM was Monday this week, but she is already eager to "see what's

See WENDI on Page 4

Workers accuse Dynasty of lying about their status

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Over 500 current and former foreign workers at Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino are accusing the owner and management of lying to them about their immigration status by falsely claiming they were legally authorized to work despite the denial of their CNMI-only Transitional Worker (CW-1) petitions.

The workers, through counsel Samuel Mok, has filed a lawsuit in federal court against Tinian Dynasty's owner Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd. and majority shareholder Mega Stars Overseas Limited.

The workers are suing HKE and Mega Stars for fraudulent concealment. In addition, they are suing HKE for negligent misrepresentation

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INSIDE

BUSINESS
Staples is buying its rival, Office Depot, for about $6 billion.
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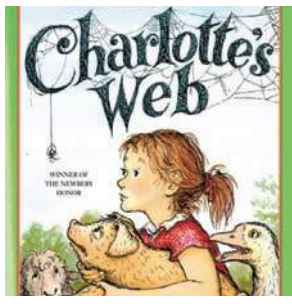
WORLD
Westerners are joining Kurds that are fighting the Islamic State group.
» PAGE 21



LIFE & STYLE
Three E.B. White classics will soon be available on the digital screen.
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Feb. is National Children's Dental Health Month

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

To promote the importance of developing good oral habits at an early age and scheduling regular dental visits for children, the Division of Public Health's dental clinic will be giving out oral health incentives for every child ages 1 to 14 years old that visits the clinic this February.

The division is celebrating the month of February as National Children's Dental Health Month. The theme this year is "Brush 2 Minutes, 2 Times a Day!"

DPH will also be doing free oral health screening between 10am to 11am tomorrow, Saturday, at the San Vicente Elementary School's Canary Walkathon.

Through funds made available by the Health Resources and Services Administration, the Oral Health Program provides preventative as well as curative dental services at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s dental clinic.

"The clinic provides restorative services including fillings, pulpotomies, children's stainless steel crowns, and adult root canals. The dental clinic is also offering general anesthesia for children who are too young or too frightened to have treatment done while awake," DPH director Margaret Aldan said.

The dental clinic will also provide preventative services of all types including cleanings, sealants, and fluoride application for both children and adults and also offer emergency services for patients in pain and extractions for both adult and primary teeth.

"Patients simply need to call the dental clinic in order to make an appointment for themselves and their children. They may also stop by the clinic to make an appointment," Aldan said.

They are located at CHC-DPH, next to the Immunization Clinic.

Aldan said they accept Medicaid and self pay patients and through the CHCC sliding free program, the clinic offers dental coverage to all income eligible uninsured or under-insured patient based on annual household income.

The dental clinic is open from 7:30am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday. For more information call DPH dental clinic at 236-8369.

Military training on FDM, at Warning Area 517

The U.S. military will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following times:

- Feb. 9, from 9:30am to 9:30pm
- Feb. 10 – 12, from 8am to 9:30pm
- Feb. 14, from 8am to noon and 2pm to 5pm

The military will conduct training at Warning Area 517 Feb. 10 – 11 from noon to 8pm

The general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from the area during the dates and times indicated. ***(PR)***

Banana plants on sale at DOA Nursery

Attention banana-lovers: the Tissue-culture Laboratory, a partnership between Guam Department of Agriculture and the University of Guam, announces a banana plant sale. The banana plants are free of viruses and pests.

Several popular varieties of bananas are available including Dwarf Cavendish, Williams, Macao, Goldfinger (FHIA01), Manila and Saba.

The sale prices range from $1 for small plants and $2 for large plants. There are also taro plants available.

Take advantage of this excellent opportunity to grow and harvest your own delicious bananas. The DOA nursery is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 3pm. For more information call Ricardo Lizama at 300-7972. ***(UOG)***

Stevens' amended discrimination suit vs CUC dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

»Ex-CUC staff given final opportunity to amend complaint a third time

The amended discrimination lawsuit filed against the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. by its former employee, Carlton Stevens, was dismissed Wednesday but he was given a final chance to amend his complaint a third time.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted CUC's motion to dismiss Stevens' second amended complaint for failure to adequately plead compliance with the statutory preconditions to bring a Title VII action (discrimination).

Stevens was given seven days from the date of the order to file a third amended complaint or the case will be dismissed with prejudice, meaning it can't be re-opened anymore.

Manglona said the amendment is limited to alleging facts and attaching documents that are relevant to the determination of whether Title VII's filing deadlines and other exhaustion requirements have been met.

Manglona also noted that in the initial complaint and first amended complaint, Stevens sued four individuals in their personal capacity. Manglona said she has already dismissed all claims against those four individuals with prejudice.

In the second amended complaint, the judge pointed out, Stevens changed the caption to name the four individuals as defendants in their official capacity.

Manglona said this change was beyond the scope of her Dec. 3, 2014, order that allowed Stevens to amend factual allegations.

If Stevens wishes to amend the complaint, he must file a motion for leave to amend the pleading and the caption, in accordance with Rule 15 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and show good cause why leave should be granted, Manglona said.

In CUC's motion to dismiss the amended complaint, the utilities agency's counsel, James Sirok, argued that the lawsuit fails to properly allege subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because jurisdictional requirements have not been satisfied.

Sirok argued that to bring a Title VII of the Civil Rights Act claim, Stevens is required to exhaust administrative remedies by first filing a claim with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

In his opposition to the motion to dismiss, Stevens, through counsel Pamela Brown Blackburn, argued that Stevens' complaint satisfies federal rules of procedure because it identifies claims for which relief can be granted.

In her order Wednesday dismissing the case, Manglona said the parties agree that Stevens' second amended complaint does not adequately plead that he filed this action within 90 days of receipt of the EEOC's right-to-sue notice.

Manglona said Stevens' requests that his statement and his counsel's declaration, submitted with his opposition, be read into the second amended complaint.

"The court cannot do that," Manglona said, citing that deficiencies in the complaint cannot be remedied by attaching new exhibits to an opposition brief.

Manglona said the 90-day period to file a civil suit commences on "the date on which a right-to-sue notice letter arrived at the claimant's address of record."

The judge pointed out that Stevens' second amended complaint and attached documents do not say when he received the EEOC's notice.

Manglona said if the receipt date is unknown, courts in the Ninth Circuit apply a rebuttable presumption that the letter was received three days after mailing.

EEOC mailed the right-to-sue notice in the discrimination claim on March 10, 2014. Under the three-day rule, the 90-day clock started ticking on March 13.

Manglona said by June 18, the date when Stevens filed this lawsuit, 97 days had passed.

"Without an equitable reason why the limitations period should be tolled, this action would be time-barred," she said.

Stevens has asked the court to allow him to amend his complaint once again, in order to plead facts establishing the actual date he received the right-to-sue notice.

Manglona said there is no indication that amendment is sought in bad faith or that it will create undue delay.

"Therefore, the court will give Stevens one last opportunity to amend his complaint," the judge added.

Stevens, an African-American, sued CUC and four of its officials for allegedly not renewing his contract as direct responsible charge operator in CUC's wastewater division, providing him a used and inoperable computer, and not providing him an office space, among other complaints.

Stevens is demanding unspecified damages, courts costs, and attorney's fees.

Last December, Manglona dismissed Stevens' claims against CUC, executive director Alan Fletcher, human resources director Frank Cepeda, wastewater manager Richard Wasser, and water and wastewater manager Paul Raczkowski, for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.

Manglona dismissed with prejudice all Stevens' claims against Fletcher, Cepeda, Wasser, and Raczkowski, and dismissed without prejudice his complaint against CUC.

Dismissed with prejudice means Stevens can't re-open the claims anymore. Dismissed without prejudice means the plaintiff can re-file the claims in the future.

Stevens subsequently filed the second amended complaint.

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WENDI

From Page 1

changed" and "relearn the landscape," after leaving the islands in 2004.

Herring replaces former GM Mark Ratliff, who has moved off island.

She looks forward to getting involved once more with the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

"It is exciting getting to learn again—coming back to learn new things in the industry that I love," she told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

What's one of her first points of business as Kanoa Resort's new GM? "Learn everybody's name," she replied.

It is hard to know where to start as a new GM, she said, but she looks forward to "listen, learn, and lead" in the coming weeks, working on some "back-of-the-house" projects, among other things.

Kanoa, she said, is also looking to renovate their main rooms soon in the future.

With its 220 rooms, Kanoa is unique, according to Herring, because it is "so easy to get around—it's right next to the beach, it's small, personalized," she said.

This, she added, gives them an opportunity to really impact their quests. "I think Kanoa is such a great property and such a great location. I feel really fortunate and blessed to have the opportunity."

Herring first arrived on island in 1989, and has since immersed herself in the hotel and hospitality industry, working also in Thailand and Guam.

Before this, she worked a sales job in San Francisco. But the job, she said, was not for her. She felt burnt out and felt like she needed some adventure. She wanted to see the world.

Luckily, a friend introduced her to a clubmate position at PIC Saipan. Herring, already an avid volleyball and softball player, took the opportunity.

"When I first got to the island I didn't know how beautiful the island was… The first day, with jet lag, I remember sitting on the beach and thinking, 'I can't believe this. I'm here.'"

She wasn't a clubmate for long, though. Herring, while a lover of sports, wanted to do more and had her eye on a management training program in her first few months on island.

After a year and a half, she joined the program, which she said had her three months in Food and Beverage, another several months in Rooms, and several weeks in Engineering, for example, where a friend and higher-up was unfortunately set on keeping her as "sort of a secretary" sitting at her desk.

But she wouldn't have it. "I had to convince him to let me out, rake, paint," she said.

She succeeded, calling her experience in the program an immersive and "amazing opportunity.

"You're coming in as a new hire basically—housekeeping in public areas, working side by side with people that do it everyday. I just really enjoyed the people, how hard they worked, how much they cared."

Then there was also working with supervisors, mangers, and observing how they led and what their responsibilities were, she said.

"It gave me such a broad scope of experience. You either love it or hate, and luckily, I loved it."

"It provided me such appreciation of the role that everybody plays toward delivering a good guest experience. If all the pieces don't fit properly then you get challenges. But you also learn how to address those challenges," she said.

From clubmate, to assistant director, to executive director, and now a general manager, Herring says the essential traits of being a leader in the hospitality and hotel business is flexibility, diplomacy, and multitasking.

"Each day can present the unexpected," she said—you have to be hard worker and not be afraid to work long hours.

But a sense of humor and fun—especially in this business—is crucial as well, she added.

"Learn to laugh and not take yourself too seriously," she said, with a laugh herself.

For her, "the people business" is all about the team, accomplishing and working together as a team.

"When the guest leaves and you smile and say, 'I hope you come back'—and they do—that's the most rewarding thing," she said.

WORKERS

From Page 1

and for wrongful termination in violation of public policy.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to obtain comments from Tinian Dynasty's counsel.

The plaintiffs are Eric F. Dona, Donny Rivera, Melinda Rivera, Chung-Liang Chiu, Shingo Kajiwara, Shao Han, Lorenzo Pacia III, Didith Pacia, Ming Yang Yuan, Chuan Hui Xu, Flordeliza F. Camiguing, Jovelyn F. Reyes, Richard Julio L. Reyes, and Ernest Y. Rivera. The 500 workers are unnamed co-plaintiffs in the lawsuit. Most of the plaintiffs have U.S. citizen children.

Mok asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to prevent HKE and Mega Stars from terminating the plaintiffs or removing their name from an administrative appeal.

Mok also asked the court to stop the defendants from forcing the plaintiffs to work in contravention of the law.

The lawyer wants the court to declare that HKE's statement—that it was legally permissible for the plaintiffs to continue working even though U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services had denied their CW-1 petitions—was false.

The plaintiffs are demanding unspecified damages, court costs, and attorney's fees.

Mok stated in the complaint that HKE and Mega Stars knew at least 18 months before Dec. 8, 2014—when USCIS denied the CW-1 petitions—that their respective CW-1 employment petitions were in jeopardy of being denied due to several warnings issued by the USCIS in the form of notices of intent to deny and notices of intent to revoke.

However, Mok said, HKE and Mega Stars deliberately withheld this information from the workers out of fear they would stop working and transfer to new employers, which would have shut down business operations and ultimately cost Tinian Dynasty a significant amount of money.

Mok said the defendants also lied to workers about their legal status by falsely claiming they were all legally authorized to work despite USCIS' denial of their CW-1 petitions.

Mok said it was the defendants' self-interest to keep the Tinian Dynasty fully staffed during a particularly critical period of time where HKE was seeking to sublease its gaming and hotel interests to a foreign corporation called "Gain Millenia Limited."

The lawyer said HKE falsely told workers via letter dated Jan. 19, 2015, that USCIS regulations allowed employees with denied CW-1 petitions to continue working so long as an administrative appeal was pending.

"At the time of this statement, HKE knew that federal immigration regulations prohibited a CW-1 worker from continuing employment once his/her CW-1 petition was formally denied," Mok said.

He said HKE threatened to terminate any worker who failed to report to work by Jan. 21, 2015, based on the disingenuous premise that working without legal authorization was "not lawful."

Mok said according to the Jan. 19 letter, any worker who "disagreed" with HKE's claim that it was "not lawful" to return to work would be deemed to have "resigned" his or her job.

He said HKE threatened to remove any worker deemed to have "resigned" from the pending administrative appeal filed with the USCIS.

Mok said that, on Jan. 12, 2015, the chairman of Mega Stars sent the workers a letter urging all workers to put their "fears aside" and concentrate on the upcoming baccarat tournament and poker tournament as well as the "very busy Chinese New Year."

Mok said that, according to Mega Stars, it would be the employer and not the employee who would be subject to criminal punishment if the workers returned to work without legal authorization.

"Defendants' utter indifference to the human cost of their unlawful conduct is highly unfortunate given the fact plaintiffs are members of the Tinian community who have friends on Tinian, attend Tinian churches and have children enrolled in Tinian schools," he said.

Over 500 foreign workers at Tinian Dynasty filed last December a separate lawsuit in federal court against Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson and other federal officials over the USCIS denial of the company's 197 CW-1 petitions involving 693 beneficiaries. Attorney Bruce Berline is representing the workers in the lawsuit.

Last December, HKE and its president and board chairman Kwan Man, through counsel Berline, have filed a lawsuit in federal court against U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Thomas E. Perez and other federal Labor officials for allegedly violating their due process right over their assessment of civil penalties of $191,400 for violating the overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

EXERCISE

From Page 1

on Feb. 3, was called Strategic National Stockpile/Receiving Staging Storing/Medical Countermeasures Pandemic Influenza Full Scale Exercise and was intended to train participants on rapid access to large quantities of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies that need to be distributed appropriately.

The first day of the exercise focused on bringing the medical supplies or SNS to its target location. The second day consisted of handpicking the medical supplies for distribution to the three populated islands in the CNMI. The third day was a frontal and tabletop exercise where citizens were to enter the location for screening and treatment.

Securing and transferring

On Feb. 3, the exercise started out with determining life-saving pharmaceuticals and medical supplies and maintaining it.

This required stakeholders to determine and plan out how they are going to transport these medical supplies safely to the distribution point.

The full-scale exercise had the participants retrieving the medical supplies from the airport and transporting it to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. medical supply storage in Lower Base, for later distribution on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

The command center was situated at the Fiesta Resort and Spa's Hibiscus Hall.

Transfer and deploying

The simulation on the second day—Feb. 4—didn't go through due to logistical errors, but major discussions and simulations were played out in identifying on handpicking the medical supplies to be distributed to Tinian and Rota.

The discussions identified the distribution of the medical supplies to the two islands by air, carrier, and Department of Public Safety's Boating Safety.

Full-frontal exercise

Yesterday morning, the distribution to Rota and Tinian went according to plan. According to CHCC Public Health-Hospital Emergency Preparedness Program director Warren Villagomez, they were able to facilitate the distribution to the two islands.

Before lunch, a simulation through the phone verified that the packages on Rota and Tinian have been distributed.

After lunch, stakeholders played out a simulation of members of the public entering the site to be screened, checked, vaccinated, and provided with all necessary medical attention.

The entire Hibiscus Hall was simulated as the main backdrop of an emergency location that citizens would eventually have to go through.

Ups and downs

Tara Brown, project officer of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-Division of State and Local Readiness-Office of Public Health and Preparedness and Response, said that all exercise participants "did good."

"Overall the entire exercise was good, but as what I have been saying the entire week, the purpose of the exercise was to see where you needed to make modifications," Brown said.

"On the process and screening area, the flaws were that people coming through had fever or pneumonia and they sent them to the table to get shots and the nurses didn't catch that, and you need to send them for assessment," she said.

Brown pointed out that people need to feel secure during assessment and that people may encounter different languages during this type of emergencies.

NMC nursing student Jun Cha Seung said it was great experience as it taught them what to do in case of an emergency like this.

Carl Haddon, On Scene Training Associates LLC director and instructor, congratulated everyone, including the security, doctors, and those registering and monitoring.

LAWMAKERS

From Page 1

vited on Feb. 19.

The lawmakers are also expected to discuss with Muña the corporation's annual report, aside from getting other inputs from the CEO regarding the proposed bill.

The advisory board is also expected to give inputs to lawmakers.

The joint committee meeting was presided by Sen. Teresita Santos (R-Rota), who heads the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, and Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), her counterpart in the House of Representatives.

The joint meeting discussed the need for a more thorough study of Senate Bill 19-04, a bill that changes the advisory board of the CHCC into a governing one.

One of the major concerns discussed at the joint meeting was the issue of "balancing of authority and not giving absolute power to one party."

Lawmakers also agreed to look into the healthcare structures of Hawaii and Guam and compare those with the CNMI.

"It is for this reason that both [chambers] are calling upon the CEO and the advisory board to bring about a dialogue to address the concerns that are currently affecting CHCC in moving forward," Santos said.

For Ogumoro, the bill should be made clearer so that questions such as who has the final say with regards to CHCC matters will finally be answered. She also endorsed the idea of meeting the regional boards of similar organizations in Guam.

Santos prefiled SB 19-04 in January but eventually decided to withdraw the bill, citing the need for more discussions or possible amendments.

SB 19-04 proposes to create a governing body for the CHCC that will appoint the CEO. Currently, the CEO, who is opposed to the bill, is appointed by the governor.

A similar bill introduced in the previous Legislature was passed by the House but not by the Senate due to "negative reactions" from the management of CHCC and Muña.

Santos promised that unlike previous attempts to enact a similar measure, SB 19-04 this time would go through the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare, which she chairs, as well as under public scrutiny via public hearings on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The purpose of SB 19-04 is to amend certain provisions of Public Law 16-51 to allow for a smooth transition from the department to the new healthcare corporation, empowering the board of trustees "to make policies and perform all acts necessary and expedient to ensure the delivery of quality care in a financially responsible manner for the people of the Commonwealth."

It will be recalled that the House hearing on SB 18-52 last Dec. 29 saw the CHCC CEO Muña and CHCC board of trustees chair Joaquin Torres getting embroiled in a fiery debate that at times broke the decorum of the lower chamber.

Lt. Gov. Torres gets more time in Hunter's lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has substituted the Office of Senate legal counsel as counsel for Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres in connection with Glen Hunter's Open Government Act lawsuit over the enactment of the casino law.

Assistant attorney general David Lochabay has informed the Superior Court that he has been assigned to represent Torres in Hunter's lawsuit.

The Office of Senate legal counsel used to serve as counsel for then-Senate president Torres in the case.

Torres, through Lochabay, filed an emergency motion on Monday to give him more time to file a brief regarding a deposition dispute in the case.

Deposition refers to the taking of testimony of a witness outside of court.

A discovery dispute has arisen in the case after Lochabay advised Torres not to answer Hunter's counsel Jennifer Dockter's questions regarding some lawmakers' Hong Kong trip in 2013 and 2014.

» n Deposition dispute has arisen as counsel tells Torres not to answer some questions

At the Jan. 29 hearing on the deposition dispute, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ordered Torres to file by last Tuesday his motion and memorandum in support of his request for a protective order.

Protective order refers to a court's direction to protect a person from further harassment, services of process, or discovery.

Wiseman also allowed Hunter to file his opposition to the motion yesterday. The judge then set a hearing on the matter for yesterday at 1:30pm and allowed Torres to file his brief yesterday.

Wiseman gave Hunter until Feb. 11 to file his response and set a hearing on Feb. 12 at 1:30pm.

In Torres' request for an extension, Lochabay said Torres cannot prepare and file a competent brief without a deposition transcript.

Lochabay said he contacted a staff at the Judicial Services Plus last Thursday afternoon to order the transcript but was told that the staff would not be coming in on Super Bowl Monday.

Lochabay said he then assigned the task of producing the transcript from the audio recording to the OAG's legal secretary, but it proved to be a slow and exacting process.

This, he said, does not leave sufficient time to locate and cite the material in dispute in the transcript and prepare and file a competent brief by Tuesday.

» n OAG replaces Senate counsel as counsel for Torres

Lochabay said he called Dockter about the problem, and that the lawyer had no objection to a deadline extension.

Wiseman has denied Gov. Eloy S. Inos' and the CNMI government's motion to reconsider the court's denial to dismiss them as parties in the case.

Wiseman said he cannot find that Inos and the CNMI government met their burden for the extraordinary remedy of a motion for reconsideration under the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure.

Hunter is suing the government, Inos, the Lottery Commission, Torres, House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind- Saipan), and two other lawmakers.

Hunter has asked the court to issue a declaratory judgment, explicitly stating that the OGA does, in fact, apply to the Legislature, and that the lawmakers named in the lawsuit are properly before the court for violating their public notice provisions.

Last October, Wiseman issued a decision that dismissed the Lottery Commission as a party in the lawsuit but denied a motion to dismiss Inos and the CNMI government as improper parties in Hunter's lawsuit.

Wiseman said the Lottery Commission is an improper party due to its lack of involvement or control over the Legislature, but he cannot dismiss Inos in these circumstances, as the governor became an indispensable party by signing the bills into law.

In the same decision, Wiseman denied the CNMI government's motion to dismiss Hunter's claims. The judge denied the CNMI Legislative Bureau's motion to dismiss the claims against Deleon Guerrero, and now vice speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan) and Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan).

Wiseman also denied Torres' motion to dismiss the claims against him.

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Palacios to represent Commonwealth on APIL board

by JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) has been appointed to represent the CNMI on the board of the Association of the Pacific Island Legislatures.

Palacios, who is also Senate floor leader, succeeds former senator Pete Reyes, who was the Senate representative for the Commonwealth on the 2013-2014 APIL board.

Senate President Victor B. Hocog (Ind-Rota) appointed Palacios in a letter to APIL president Sen. Kenneth Kedi of the Marshall Islands.

In the letter, Hocog said, "Senator Palacios possesses the credential, knowledge, and experience that would be of valuable asset to the APIL organization."

"I am confident in his professionalism and in working collaboratively with our islands' counterparts toward improving the standards and livelihoods of our island community," Hocog said.

The APIL seeks to organize a permanent association of mutual assistance by representatives of the people of the Pacific Islands.

In its website, APIL said it seeks to address issues "that may include, but are not limited to, those arising in the areas of resources and economic development, commerce, legislation, energy, regional security and defense, communications, cultural appreciation, health and social services, education, agriculture, air and sea transportation, aquaculture, sports and recreation, youth and senior citizens, tourism, finance, political status, external relations, and development banking."

APIL members include American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap), Guam, Marshall Islands, Palau, Hawaii, Kiribati, and Nauru.

Mayor's office to pick up stray dogs

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office will once again be sweeping into villages to pick up stray dogs.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang said yesterday his office has two teams that will be picking up strays, particularly in villages that have a high number of complaints of roaming dogs. One team will work on the north side of Saipan while the other will be on the south side.

The operation will last from this month until May.

"Our staff will be doing the stray dog removal on each village for almost a week on all these villages so I urge the public to please tie your dogs because it is the law," Apatang said.

He said this is in response to complaints of recent attacks by stray dogs.

"We've had a lot of complaints and it is all over the islands and we will concentrate on addressing the community's concerns," Apatang said.

From Feb. 9 to 20, the mayor's team will visit Dandan and Garapan, followed by Koblerville and China Town from Feb. 23 to 26; San Antonio and Navy Hill from March 9 to 20; Chalan Kanoa and Puerto Rico from March 23 to April 3; Susupe and Tanapag from April 6 to April 17; San Jose and San Roque from April 20 to May 1; and Chalan Kiya and As Matuis from May 4 to May 15.

Based on a survey conducted by Humane Society International, these villages have high dog populations. There are a total of 12,300 stray dogs on Saipan, according to the survey.

NMHC to beef up services on housing

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Northern Marianas Housing Corp. corporate director Jesse Palacios recently told board members that the corporation's goal this year is to expand, improve, and increase its housing programs.

Citing his 2014 annual report, Palacios said that two goals weren't met last year so they've included it on their agenda this year. These are expanding the supply of assisted housing and improving the quality of assisted housing.

Palacios told board members that NMHC will apply for additional rent vouchers and continue to monitor U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's notice of available funds or "superNOFAs."

The NOFAs are funds that HUD usually allocates to NMHC through block grants, housing choice vouchers and other formula-based funding.

NMHC will also collaborate with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), HUD, the U.S Department of Agriculture's Rural Development program, and the Veteran's Affairs Office in Guam and the CNMI.

Palacios vowed that NMHC will continue to maintain its Housing Choice Voucher count at 320 throughout the year.

According to NMHC's latest report, more than 200 families benefit from its Housing Choice Voucher program. This program is only for those availing of privately owned scattered units that are part of the program and housing division of NMHC's Section 8 Housing Assistance Program.

Palacios said they would also be working on the voucher management system to enhance accountability and increase customer satisfaction.

Another NMHC goal this year is to work on developing Low Income Housing Tax Credit projects.

So far NMHC has helped build the Isa Villas in 2012, Tasi Homes in 2013, Saipan Comfort Homes, which is still pending, and Ironwood Saipan, which is also in development.

"In a short amount of time, we have made tremendous improvements in compliance and operations but we still have work to do. We can do better," Palacios said.

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTSEWER SYSTEM PROJECT
Project No. CPA-TA-001-15

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for the Tinian International Airport Sewer System Project, No. CPA-TA-001-15, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Scope of Work (SOW) includes constructability review and overall construction management services. Details are available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for qualification (RFQ) statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500, faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, February 20, 2015, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. Construction management experience related to CPA airport related projects;
3. Level of proficiency in performing construction management services promptly and level of experience with airport related projects;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience and services performed for airport projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable and a valid CNMI business license.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, MARCH 2, 2015.** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified construction management firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Ms. MaryAnn Q. Lizama
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: January 29, 2015

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CUC seeks court OK to proceed with Tank 102 project

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. sought the federal court's approval yesterday to deposit $300,000 in court and allow Gilbane Federal to manage the construction of CUC's Tank 102.

Gilbane Federal is a California-based full service construction company recently selected by the federal court as Engineering and Environmental Management Company, which will have the power to expeditiously complete some CUC projects.

The Tank 102 project involves a 500,000-gallon diesel fuel tank that will replace Tank 010, which has been found to be a source of pollution and is non-repairable.

The U.S. government, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the CNMI government did not object to CUC's request to allow Gilbane Federal to perform Tank 102 activities.

CUC counsel James Sirok stated in their request that the utilities agency shall be solely responsible for funding Gilbane's activities.

Last Jan. 12, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter clarified that Tank 102 remains the responsibility of CUC, including CUC's obligation to fund and build the tank.

Sirok said within five days of the court's approval of their request or stipulation, CUC shall place $300,000 into the court registry to fund Gilbane Federal for task order activities.

Sirok said the $300,000 will be withdrawn from the contingency fund being maintained by CUC.

Sirok said upon completion of task orders and after full payment is made to Gilbane, funds remaining from CUC's $300,000 court registry deposit shall be returned to CUC.

Last September, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission approved a $1.602-million contract for the Tank 102 project.

Public warned of hazardous surf

Fresh trade winds and combined seas of 7 to 10 feet will produce conditions hazardous for operators of small craft but winds and seas should gradually subside today but then pick up again over the weekend, according to the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, citing data from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam.

A high surf advisory is in effect until 6am today, Friday.

A small craft advisory is also in effect until 6am today, Friday.

Combined seas of 7 to 10 feet and northeast winds 15 to 20 knots with occasional stronger gusts will continue.

Those operating smaller vessels should avoid boating in these conditions. If travel by boat is necessary, exercise caution especially near reef lines and when entering or leaving harbors and inlets. Do not venture near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north and west facing reefs as rip currents will be life threatening. ***(HSEM)***

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COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

AIRPORT OPERATIONS AREA (AOA) OFFICE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-15 DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting for sealed proposals for the construction of a new office for the Airport Operation Area (AOA) department at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The work shall include all materials, labor and equipment necessary to achieve a finished product, including but not limited to the items in the scope of work and those shown on the layout.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for the Construction of AOA Office – Design/Build Services"***. One original and four (4) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2015**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The proposer shall submit with their proposal the following:
1. Letter of interest;
2. Project Approach;
3. D-B Construction Team;
4. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
5. Available resources to accomplish the project;
6. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format); and
7. Valid CNMI Business License.

Proposers shall also with their proposal a statement of qualifications which should include résumés and experience of personnel that will be directly in charge of the project. Note that either party of the design consultant/contractor team that submits a proposal cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different design/build teams.

A site visit may be requested by each proposer and will be coordinated with the AOA personnel.

The Scope of Work (SOW) and layout may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and cost must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Total cost for design and construction	45%
2. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	25%
3. Experience of the firm on similar or related projects	20%
4. Project Approach	10%

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within thirty (30) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for forty-five (45) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a proposal bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Upon award, contractor shall execute performance and payment bonds for 100% of the contract amount from a CPA approved surety prior to commencement of work.

The contract period for design and construction is stated in the scope of work. Liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: January 16, 2015

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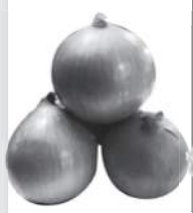

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Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

It's time to give Ukraine a defensive military boost

Fearful of provoking a new Cold War with Russia, the Obama administration has for months resisted pleas that it provide weapons to the government of Ukraine. This page has supported that cautious policy, worrying that military assistance to the government in Kiev would seem to create a proxy war between the U.S. and Russia.

But the collapse of a cease-fire and recent gains by Russian-supported separatists are causing U.S. officials to question their policy of relying on economic sanctions to alter Russian behavior. There are good reasons for such a reconsideration.

Last year, Congress passed legislation authorizing (but not requiring) the president to provide arms to Ukraine. On Monday, a group of former U.S. officials—including Michele Flournoy, undersecretary of Defense in Obama's first term—recommended that the U.S. supply Ukraine with $3 billion in defensive equipment, including anti-armor missiles, reconnaissance drones and advanced radar systems. The purpose of the aid would be twofold: to deter further Russian military action "in or against Ukraine" and to make it clear that "the West will not accept the use of force to change borders in Europe."

In their report, the former officials noted that Russia's actions in Ukraine—including its annexation of Crimea—violated a 1994 agreement in which Russia (along with the U.S. and Britain) promised to respect Ukraine's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and not threaten it with force. The report warned that success in Ukraine might tempt Russian President Vladimir Putin to seek territorial changes in Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, former Soviet republics, now members of NATO, that also have sizable Russian and Russian-speaking populations.

There is no guarantee that arming Ukraine will succeed in persuading Putin to change course, but we believe the administration should make the effort. In doing so, however, the administration must strive to preserve a united front on economic sanctions with European nations such as Germany that choose not to provide military aid. It also should continue to encourage negotiations on the political future of Ukraine.

Finally, the U.S. must emphasize why it is acting: not to move a pawn on what Obama once called a "Cold War chessboard" but to support the independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine and every other nation in Europe. If Russia wants a respectful hearing for its views about the future of Russian-speaking Ukrainians, it will commit itself to the same principles.

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In the nuclear talks, what if Iran can't get to yes?

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times*. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com*

The news from U.S. negotiators who are trying to persuade Iran to accept binding limits on its nuclear technology was not good last week.

Iran's president, Hassan Rouhani, and his foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, still say they're willing to make a deal.

But the country's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, insists that any agreement must commit the United States and other countries to lift all economic sanctions from Iran immediately—and that's not going to happen.

And Khamenei has begun warning his countrymen to prepare themselves for a "resistance economy," not the boom that an end to sanctions would bring.

"It's looking increasingly as if the Iranians can't get to yes," one official told me last week. Last month, Secretary of State John F. Kerry said he thought a deal could be reached soon; he's less optimistic now, I'm told.

The negotiators are working against a March 24 deadline to conclude an agreement that would limit Iran's nuclear technology, impose tough international inspections and gradually lift economic sanctions in return.

Such a deal would be the Obama administration's biggest foreign policy achievement. But now some officials are focusing instead on a Plan B. If March 24 arrives and an agreement appears tantalizingly close, negotiators are likely to propose extending the talks for a few more days or weeks.

But what if Iran still can't get to yes under terms acceptable to the United States and its five diplomatic partners—Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China?

At that point, the goal will be to keep restraining Iran from developing nuclear technology that can be used for weapons. That means maintaining—even strengthening—international economic sanctions.

As a first step, the United States and its allies will try to make sure Iran gets blamed for the talks' failure. Maintaining international sanctions, Treasury Undersecretary David S. Cohen told Congress last week, will depend mostly "on who our partners perceive is to blame."

And there will undoubtedly be calls for increased sanctions—but again, that hinges on our diplomatic partners. "We're not the only ones who have a vote in this," Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken noted.

But one more option appears increasingly likely: an extension of the current interim agreement with Iran, which limits Tehran's nuclear program in exchange for modest relief from economic sanctions.

Under the current version, Iran is gradually converting its enriched uranium to a form that can't be used for weapons. In return, it gets access to $700 million a month of its oil earnings, money that had been sequestered overseas.

That's a lot of money, but it's dwarfed by the estimated $130 billion in blocked funds that Iran could get if sanctions ended.

Now let's do something unusual: Applaud Congress for constructive inaction.

Last week, Sens. Mark Steven Kirk (R-Ill.) and Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) were gathering support for a bill with tough new automatic sanctions if Iran didn't agree to a deal. President Obama warned the bill would blow up the negotiations and allow other countries to blame the United States.

Menendez dismissed those warnings and said, outrageously, that Obama's position sounded "like talking points that come straight out of Tehran." Sen. Tom Cotton (R-Ark.), was even more candid: "The end of these negotiations isn't an unintended consequence of congressional action," he said. "It is very much an intended consequence—a feature, not a bug."

But in the face of the administration's warnings, Kirk and Menendez couldn't muster the 67 votes they would need to override Obama's promised veto. They didn't even have all 55 Republicans; Sens. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) agreed with Obama.

So Kirk and Menendez postponed the bill until some time after March 24, when the outcome of negotiations should be clearer.

Meanwhile, the new chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), pushed ahead with a more sensible proposal: a bill that would make a nuclear agreement—if one is reached—subject to review by Congress. Corker's measure, which has broad bipartisan support, might give Congress 90 days to reject a deal, or else it would go into force.

"We're very concerned ... that maybe the administration wants a deal more than Iran does," Corker told me. But he said postponing new sanctions legislation was a good idea, because it would have "caused the focus (of international concern) to be on the United States and not Iran."

Intriguingly, Corker said he's willing to consider continuing the interim agreement with Iran if the talks fail.

"You could be better off with (the interim agreement) in place," he said. "You walk away from the table and everything falls apart," including, potentially, the remaining international sanctions and limits on Iran's nuclear activities.

That doesn't add up to a bipartisan consensus on every piece of Plan B—not yet. But it's evidence that if the talks with Iran fail, the "interim" arrangement could last a while longer—an arrangement that offers one big advantage: It would allow both sides to live to negotiate another day.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

'Buy the ticket, take the ride.'

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Of all the loaded words in the dictionary, here's a candidate for the biggest artillery: "goals." Everybody says we should have them but nobody seems to agree on how to land them, since if they did agree, everybody would have landed them already and we could stop talking about it.

Fortunately, in the great schoolhouse of life, I always sat in the back of the class, staring out the window and daydreaming about my favorite subject (lunch), so I've usually been left out of any discussions on this matter.

"Usually" doesn't mean always though. Sometimes there's no escaping this goal thing. When I get the chance I'll often walk through a big city bookstore just to get a feeling for the hot topics. Here's one that never, ever goes away: The secret-to-success genre. Which is to say: goals. There's certainly nothing wrong with that. At least it shows that the notion of ambition is still a going concern.

I might be a heretic on the goal thing, because one of my goals is to have as few of them as possible. Me, I've entertained a smattering of them, but outside of that, well, I'm content to put my toes in the sand and watch the world go by.

As for the big goals, notably the professional ones, they often require decades of striving. That's all well and good, but, from what I've seen, those who endure the competitive imperatives of such realms aren't usually inclined to talk shop in general company.

Besides, it's tricky turf. Goals are sneaky things, and the bigger, the sneakier. If a person has the goal, the goal might also have the person. Furthermore, one very unpopular (but true) notion is that randomness plays a large role in everything, so we only have limited steering authority over our paths. And here's another furthermore: I've known surgeons, airline pilots, and attorneys who, while in the notionally prime years of their careers, have decided to change course and do something else.

Overall, as Hunter Thompson said, "Buy the ticket, take the ride." There's no guarantee here, and no refunds.

On the other side of the ledger, I enjoy indulging situations in which I have no goals at all. This side of the ledger doesn't soak up any conceptual capital and it never depreciates.

So I am a fan of road trips that have no schedule, pick-up football games that don't care about the score, and camp outs that have "nothing" as the highlighted activity.

When I dropped an engine by a machine shop to rebuild, this for a personal project and not a work thing, the date I specified for completion was "whenever." I'll never get into the amateur mechanic hall of fame with that attitude, but I'm not gunning for it anyway.

Along the same lines, many people go fishing not really for the fish, but for the excuse to sit around and relax. That's a long tradition right there.

Long, maybe, but not universal. If you were admit to anyone that your goal for the week is to not have a goal, you might get some strange looks. But the other side of that equation can be even worse, and here we come to a little story.

I had a pal who was a hotshot real estate agent. He was riding an even hotter market. Eventually, however, the market cooled, and he found himself on an ever-hungrier prowl for new clients.

Although he usually didn't "talk shop" in normal, non-working situations, he found himself trying to ingratiate himself with people in hopes of building up his client book. People, of course, eventually noticed this. They couldn't be sure if he was being friendly to be friendly, or if he was being friendly to further his professional goals. As for the agent, he told me that he, himself, was sort of losing the distinction in his own mind, too. He was a solid guy, and very popular, and somebody found him a job in a different industry, where he has become quite a big success.

Of those dark real estate days, he told me, in retrospect, that it was stressful to interact with complete strangers or casual acquaintances while secretly hoping for something from them. His professional goal had become a hidden agenda.

And this is probably a good place to leave the matter. As long as we can keep our goals in perspective, maybe we can wind up better off. As for me, my only goal for the day is to convert the hamburger of my daydreams into reality, and I am happy to report imminent success. Buy the burger, take the fries.

On Torres' protective order

By JOHN DELROSARIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Lt. Gov. Raphael Torres refuses to answer questions about his Hong Kong, Macau, and Manila trips reportedly per his counsel's advice. This pricked my curiosity and definitely raises more questions of trips in 2013-2014 along with his servile cabal that co-opted casino investors with grand obedience in servility.

As an observer I may have to keep my trap shut.

But as a taxpayer, I'd like to know who paid for the trips: Did Torres pay for it? Was it paid for by taxpayers' money? Or was it an all-expense paid trip by a mystery firm? It is rumored that the trip between Hong Kong and Macau was done via private jet.

Wasn't this a form of gobbling freebies the perfect recipe to compromising integrity in the process? Is this why the repeal and substitution of the original casino law in the last Legislature per the whimsical dictates of BSI? This definitely is a tale of character compromising integrity altogether. It's a predatory scheme you and cabal had co-opted that would eventually lead to cultural marginalization and permanent destruction.

Torres won't even answer who authored the HK-drafted casino bill. Legislative counsels here said it "mysteriously" appeared and "tiptoed" through both chambers in quick succession and inked at midnight.

But didn't the House impeach a governor for lack of transparency and couldn't hold the same self-imposed standard against itself? Appalling the new modus operandi in the culture of the ephemeral doubled down by deceit!

As it is BSI has yet to find and secure land and ensure that basic infrastructure deficit and requisite labor needs are resolved accordingly. Did you people ignore federal mandate that the NMI replace non-citizen workers with citizens over the next five years? Realistic hurdles the NMI must resolve forthwith. The people you represent, e.g., "we the people" deserve to know answers to these queries, sir! It's all about transparency and the rule of law in a democracy!

An article in *The Wall Street Journal* (Asian Edition) two days ago reported a 17.4 percent drop in revenues in Macau casinos, what with the purging of corruption that kills both money laundering and junket tours, the playground of the triad. Do you understand the implications of these events against your pipe dream investment scheme here?

You literally must build a towering air bridge to escort it home, true? Someone once said don't insult an alligator until you cross the river. The alligators—we the people—are here watching, patiently, munching on breadcrumbs.

Indigenous issues as cover

When we reach the pinnacle of our career, the only other turn is the inevitable: Descent or a slow walk down the stairs to where we started. It is as sure as gravity confirming, time and again, that what goes up must come down.

Whatever it may be, it's hierarchical burnout. The supple muscles melt while mental acuity heads toward dementia land where you meet "senior moments" or fuzzy memory.

Strange, though, how political dinosaurs have never learned this life's lesson. The clever use of the term "indigenous" as though peripheral or inconsequential depicts the depth of their understanding of indigenous issues. Moreover, their understanding is founded in the culture of the ephemeral—it doesn't last at all.

Though we kept our sentiments under the cover of civility, we know it was nothing more than last ditch political exploitation that quickly evaporated as a result of the lack of credibility and substance. Well, we've sent them on that final journey into the sunset.

Strangely, people I thought were trustworthy crumbled like crispy marshland reed when faced with the moral issue of leadership on casino. They turned partners of the political elite, co-opting casino investors by taking their place in the chow line for their share of unearned glory. Why didn't they slam the deal?

Ironically, they wanted change but refused to put their best foot forward when it really mattered. It goes to show their character, lack of principle and gravitas. Embarrassing!

Said management guru Peter Drucker, "Management is doing things right; leadership is doing the right things." They have neither! They had Magoo yawning for the last three months already!

In the midst of the deepening economic mess, have the guys really buckled down to studying our economic posture, specifically what contributed to revenue generation going south? Was it all "*biba*," ignorant of how we've missed the boat while sitting at the port?

Our land is leased dirt cheap, then we become nothing more than servile utilitarian as bellboys, gardeners, chambermaids, sales clerks, janitors, bus drivers, etc. Is this our future in tourism? If anything, there's only one thing we've embraced with real time consistency: inconsistency and redundant adolescent disorientation! Hello! Anybody home?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Our humble contribution toward peace

I have been closely observing the media coverage on the needs of the military on Tinian, Saipan, and Pagan Island. I am aware that the military is presently conducting an environmental impact study in areas where it will be most suitable for their purposes while minimizing the effect on the respective community.

I have been watching the evening news on television where fighter planes are using the Tinian airstrip for landing and take-off practices. I also heard that the Air Force is looking seriously at the Saipan airport as an option.

The island of Pagan—depending on the result of the Environmental Impact Study, which is almost complete—it is quite possible that the military might use a portion of Pagan to train our men and women in uniform. Again that will depend on the result of the EIS, which is presently ongoing.

I am aware that there are resistance by some folks within our community to accommodate the military with their needs for the purposes of training so that in time of emergency our young men and women in *uniform* are fully capable to carry out their responsibilities; to defend us and our nation in time of conflict. More importantly, they don't come back home in a casket. I don't want to see another conflict as I did during World War II.

The question I ask therefore is: Is it too much to let our "*peace keeping force*" use a portion of Pagan Island for training? Please accord the needs of our military folks so that these young men and women may effectively defend us and our nation. I want to see them come back from war *alive* and not in caskets. Let us show Uncle Sam that we, the people of the CNMI, are more than happy to give up a portion of the island of Pagan as our contribution toward maintaining peace.

David M. Sablan
Chalan Pago, Saipan

Outlaw betel nut spitting

Dear lawmakers: I'm seeking your assistance to introduce a law to regulate betel nut chewers' unsanitary habit of spitting in public places. This practice is hazardous to our health and an unpleasant view for our guests and customers visiting restaurants, stores, beaches, airport, schools, hospital, and other public places that we go to for service or public function. This unsanitary habit of spitting anywhere they please is very dirty and an eyesore for all of us. Just the thought of it makes me feel sick to the stomach. And I believe in educating our children to prevent future contamination of our island by enforcing such laws to spit in appropriate places that will not affect our environment.

I also want to ask you to clarify the laws and enforce the no smoking in public places. Please specify a casino and game room. There are a lot of us in our community who have illnesses that are affected by these smokers. Research has proven that tobacco smoke kills people who have such illnesses. It also affects hypertension patients. I believe the U.S. Constitution mandates the government to protect our general health and welfare.

Winnie Atalig
San Jose, Tinian

Stop wasting tax money

On the story titled "CHCC seeks consultant for pay classification, compensation," why continue to waste what few taxpayer resources there are? All of us that own clinics or run hospitals know that this data already exists from MGMA at MGMA.com. Of course you have to pay a small subscription fee but a real CEO would know about this.

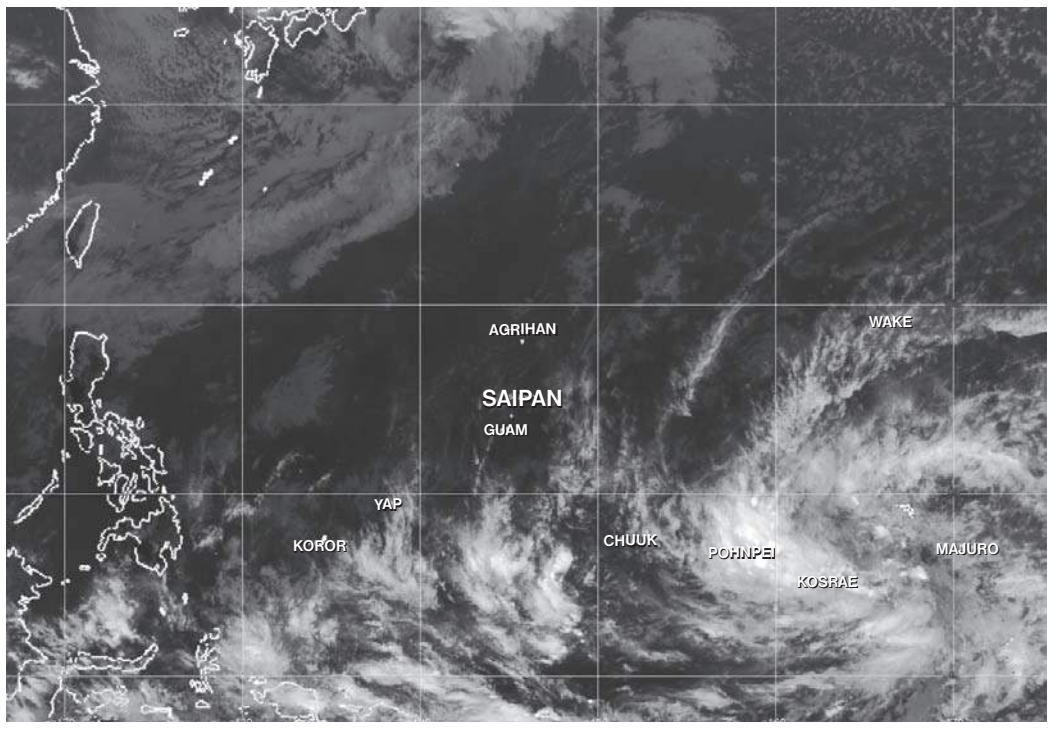
Dr. Grant Walker
Orthopedic Board Member ABPS
via email

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Breezy at times.
▲87° ▼75°	▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N138E to beyond 130E at 20N. Scattered showers are occurring southeast of the Ryukyu Islands along and up to 280 miles northwest of the boundary. A near-equatorial trough runs eastward from 1N130E to a developing tropical disturbance centered southeast of Kosrae near 4N167E, then turns southeastward to EQ175E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found southeast of Koror between 3N and the equator from 130E to 134E as well as southeast of Yap between 9N and 1N from 137E to 149E. Farther east, a broad area of scattered to numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are present across Pohnpei and Kosrae states between 11N and the equator from 155E to 169E. Another cluster of scattered showers are found south of Majuro between 6N and the equator from 170E to 176E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of the Marshall Islands within 80 miles of a line from 9N175E to 8N180E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Windy	▲70	▼61
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲49	▼26
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼54
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼65
London	Partly Cloudy	▲42	▼34
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲77	▼55
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼68
Melbourne	Sunny	▲96	▼71
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲78	▼60
New York	Snow	▲33	▼ 9
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼34
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲39	▼29
Pusan	Sunny	▲49	▼32
Rome	Rain	▲54	▼42
Salem	Rain	▲56	▼52
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲64	▼56
Seoul	Sunny	▲43	▼27
Tokyo	Sunny	▲53	▼33
Washington, DC	Windy	▲35	▼18

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:12 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
9:39 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:42 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
8:51 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:45 AM	6:18 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:18 PM
Sunday	6:45 AM	6:19 PM
Monday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Tuesday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:06 AM	7:55 AM
Saturday	8:52 AM	8:33 AM
Sunday	9:39 PM	9:11 AM
Monday	10:26 PM	9:50 AM
Tuesday	11:15 PM	10:29 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Dailly via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

LIFESAVER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mayor Joey P. San Nicolas, sixth from left, presents a Citizen's Award to retired Tinian Fire captain Juan O. Barcinas, fifth from right, yesterday, in appreciation of his leadership and act of heroism on Jan. 11, 2015, which helped save three lives from a capsized boat off the coast of Aguiguan. Lino S. Tenorio Jr. and Mike R. Cabrera were with Barcinas during the rescue. The award was presented to Barcinas at the Tinian Mayor's Office conference room. Others in photo are, from left, Sen. Frank Q. Cruz, acting Resident Department chief Juan E. Santos, 15th Tinian Municipal Council secretary/treasurer Edwin M. Hofschneider, Board of Education member Florine M. Hofschneider, Sen. Francisco M. Borja, 15th Tinian Municipal Council chair Raynaldo M. Cing, vice chair Dianna H. Borja, Outreach Program Director Magdalena B. San Nicolas, and Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 6th birthday to our princess Alyvia Ada, who is celebrating her special day today! May God continue to bless you and keep you in good health. We love you! Greetings come from Mom and Dad.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy second birthday to Princess Audreanna Maui Barcinas, who will be celebrating on Feb. 8 2015! Let this day be full of fun and joy. We wish you an outstanding and fabulous birthday, my baby. We love you! Greetings come from Mommy and Daddy!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 3rd birthday to our White Power Ranger, Blue NinjaTurtle, motorcycle loving, absolutely amazing son. We love you Jude! Love, Momma and Daddy, Malia, Jazzy, and Jayda.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 71st birthday to our father, Juanito C. Montano Sr., who will be celebrating his special day on Feb. 8, 2015! May you have more years to come and good health! We love you *tatay/lolo*! Greetings come from Jane, Borge, Jemo, Jerome and Janvir.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 5th birthday to Marco Antonio Sison! Be a good boy all the way. Greetings come from Kuya Janvir, Kuya Jemo, Kuya Jerome, Tita Jane, and Tito Borge.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 1st birthday to our beautiful baby, Nicci Briann T. Lepinskie. May you warm our hearts and fill our days with laughter for many years to come. We love you. Greetings come from Grandma, Grandpa, Mommy, Daddy, brother and sister.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Each day of our life, you give us endless happiness. With each birthday, that happiness keeps on growing and you make us really proud. Happy 6th birthday, our sweet, sweet daughter, Shalei Kisa Camacho. May all your dreams and wishes come true! God bless and we love you. Greetings coming out from Mommy and Daddy.

$6.7M spent on PSS personnel as of Jan. 14

As of Jan. 14, 2015, $6.7 million has been spent on Public School System personnel, according to PSS finance and budget director Derek Sasamoto.

Out of about $33.9 million available for operations for fiscal year 2015, $28.84 million has been allocated for personnel. A total of $2.7 million have been allocated to operations, or what PSS calls "all others."

As of last month, PSS expended $1.25 million and obligated $670,000 for a total of $1.923 million, leaving a balance of about $780,000.

For its CUC bill, in October, PSS spent $209,000. PSS had a usage of 436,000 kilowatt hours for total power expense of $190,000.

In November, total expenses went down slightly to $199,732. Kilowatt hours were at 434,000 kilowatt hours but expense was reduced because rates were going down.

In December, total expenses increased slightly to $201,795. About $136,663 of this was in total power cost, even as PSS usage jumped to 467, 000 kilowatt hours.

For 2015, local appropriations for the Board of Education and PSS were $33,613,903 for 2015. Adding CW fees, and Compact Impact funds and subtracting the Office of Public Auditor-required 1 percent, this amounts to $33,997,768 in total appropriations. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

FOA presents musical revue for Valentines Day weekend

This next weekend, Feb. 12, 14, and 15, Saipan's community theater, the Friends of the Arts, will be presenting the third program of its 2015 season, *Let's Fall in Love Again* The program is a musical revue that consists of songs taken from different Broadway shows: *Cabaret, Cinderella, Grease, Color Purple, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, Jersey Boys, Love Never Dies, Les Miserables, The Little Mermaid, Hair Spray, The Last Five Years, The Addams Family, Jekyll and Hyde, Wonderland, Promises Promises,* and others.

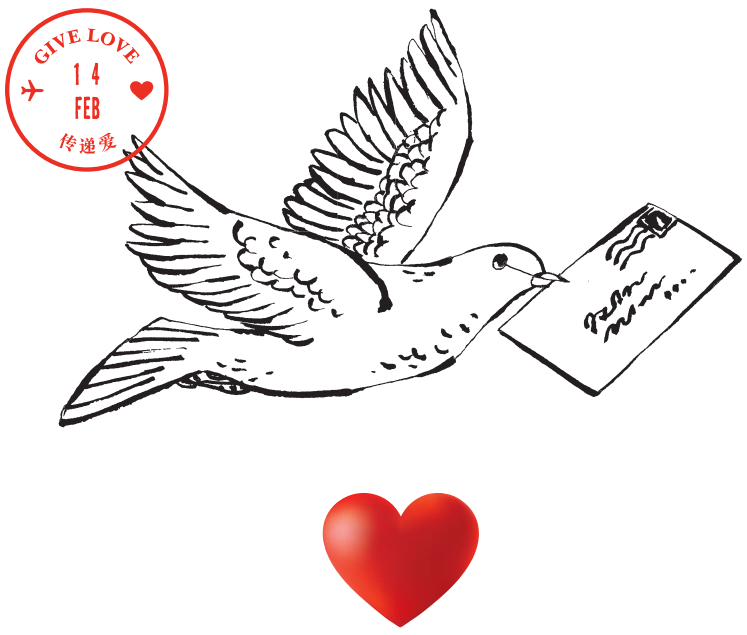
The songs depict different scenarios of people falling in and out of love. The show starts with a song in contradiction to the theme, *I'll Never Fall in Love Again*. It then it continues to show reasons why some people find it hard to fall in love. After which, it takes it from the beginning of a love story—the infatuation stage. The program will also feature songs that speak about conflicts in a relationship and songs that show love from different kinds of people and characters.

The program on Valentines Day, Feb. 14, will be a reserved table dinner-theater program for all attendees, offering the fabulous PIC buffet included in the price of the ticket: $40 for adults, $35 for FOA members, $32 for students above 11 years of age, and $20 for students and children 4-11 years of age. Season ticket-holders and advertisers will pay $24 for the meal only.

On the Feb. 13 and 15 shows, guests may have the option of purchasing the buffet at the $24 price for adults and students above 11 years in age and $12 for students and children 4-11 years of age, with the ticket cost $15 for adults, $12 for FOA members, $8 for students and children above 4 years of age.

The door will be open and the PIC buffet will be available for all performances at 6:30pm, with the program beginning at 7:30pm. For those attending the dinner-theater performance on Feb. 14, tables may be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations for this evening are a commitment and you will be expected to pay the full amount even if you fail to attend. Reservations can be made by email to flgibson@yahoo.com or by telephone to 287-7476.

Tickets are available through FOA board members and performers. Tickets will also be sold at the door on a space available basis. ***(PR)***



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Multinational exercise Cope North coming to Saipan

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—Increased fighter and tanker activity is expected on Saipan on Monday, Feb. 9, in preparation for the multilateral exercise Cope North.

The U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy, Japan Air Self-Defense Force, and Royal Australian Air Force will conduct the 86th iteration of the annual exercise at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, from Feb. 15 through 27.

Exercise CN15 is designed to enhance each countries' air operations. Additional participants from the Republic of Korea and New Zealand will join with the United States, Japan, and Australia forces to conduct humanitarian assistance and disaster relief training this year.

CN15 marks the first year of Royal New Zealand Air Force participation in the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief portion of the training and the second year for the Republic of Korea Air Force's participation. This will also be the first time during a Cope North exercise that the USAF, ROKAF and RNZAF will conduct multilateral personnel recovery and search and rescue operations.

The first week of the exercise will consist of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief training and air combat training. During the second part of the exercise, the focus will shift to large force employment training, fighter versus fighter air combat tactics training and air-to-ground strike mission training over the Farallon de Medinilla Range, 160 nautical miles north of Guam.

Since the first Cope North exercise in 1978 at Misawa Air Base, Japan, thousands of U.S. and Japanese airmen have honed skills vital to maintaining a high level of readiness, inherent to the stability of the region. CN15 is the fourth iteration that Cope North will be a trilateral exercise with the U.S., Australia, and Japan.

Cope North was previously held in Japan as often as four times a year, and was moved to Andersen AFB, Guam, in 1999. The exercise is now held once a year, and continues to serve as a keystone event to promote stability and security throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. ***(USAF)***

Stranded boaters rescued near Rota

SONGSONG, Rota—Sailors from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, and rescue crews from Rota recovered three stranded boaters a mile offshore near the village of Songsong on Tuesday, Feb. 3.

The 20-foot vessel was operating in 10-foot seas when its engine failed around noon. Due to surf conditions, a rescue vessel from Rota was unable to immediately rescue the stranded boaters. A Navy MH-60S helicopter from HSC-25 was launched from Andersen Air Force Base and reached the vessel within 30 minutes of receiving the call to act as on-scene commander. Once in the vicinity, the helicopter crew determined the best course of action was to monitor the boaters until a rescue vessel could arrive.

After about an hour and a half, the seas calmed down enough for a Rota rescue vessel to tow the stranded vessel in. The HSC-25 crew credited good communication between HSC-25, Coast Guard Sector Guam and the rescue units from Rota for the recovery.

The incident was the fourth search-and-rescue executed by HSC-25 personnel this year.

HSC-25 is the Navy's only forward-deployed MH-60S expeditionary squadron. As a part of Helicopter Sea Combat Wing Pacific, it provides an armed helicopter capability for U.S. 7th Fleet in support of logistics, search and rescue and humanitarian assistance missions.

HSC-25 is also the only squadron that maintains a 24-hour search and rescue and medical evacuation alert posture, directly supporting the U.S. Coast Guard and Joint Region Marianas. ***(Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for **PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) RUNWAY VACUUM SWEEPER** to the FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP No. 3-69-0002-80, will be received at the office of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, PO Box 501055, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Procurement and Delivery of One (1) Runway Vacuum Sweeper to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0002-80"*, and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2015**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of the procurement and delivery of one (1) brand new manually operated runway vacuum sweeper for the Saipan International Airport designed especially for use in cleaning pavements to remove debris, dirt and dust from routed cracks of the pavement, all in accordance with the specifications.

A CD-Rom containing the contract documents including specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. This payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The procurement is being financed by funds from U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within sixty (60) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for ninety (90) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for procurement and delivery in its entirety shall be **THREE HUNDRED (300) CALENDAR DAYS**. Liquidated damages of **FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($500.00)** shall be assessed the awarded bidder for each calendar day the completion of the delivery is delayed beyond the completion date without excuse.

The apparent low bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, February 13, 2015**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 60-25 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal.

Each bidder must complete, sign, and furnish the "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "Certification of Nonsegregated Facilities", and the "Assurance of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises Participation", and all other required forms and information as required, stipulated and contained in the bid proposal documents and specifcations, with the submission of the Bid Proposal.

The proposed agreement is under and subject to Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375 dated October 13, 1977, and Section 60-1.4(b) of the regulations of the Secretary of Labor (41 CFR 60-1) as implemented by Section 152.61 of the Federal Aviation Regulations, and to the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Federal Labor provisions.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension.

The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A bidder having 50 or more employees and any subcontractor having 50 or more employees and who may be awarded a contract of Fifty Thousand Dollars ($50,000.00) or more, will be required to maintain an affirmative action program, the standards for which are contained in the specifications. To be eligible for award, each bidder must comply with the affirmative action requirements.

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award of any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement.

Women will be afforded equal opportunity in all areas of employment. However, the employment of women shall not diminish the standards or requirements for employment of minorities.

The proposed contract is under and subject to the foreign trade restrictions required by 49 CFR Part 30, Denial of Public Works Contracts to Supplier of Goods and Services of Countries that Deny Procurement Market Access to U.S. Contractors.

The Aviation Safety and Capacity Expansion Act of 1990 provides that preference be given to steel and manufactured products produced in the United States when funds are expended pursuant to a grant issued under the Airport Improvement Program.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Chairman of the Board/Contracting Officer
Date: January 20, 2015

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors, caregivers' support meeting set

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's monthly survivors/caregivers support meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room, from 5:30pm to 7pm. The special guest speaker will be the Medical Referral Office director, Ronald Sablan. To RSVP, email us or call our office at 682-0050. ***(CCA)***

Kagman High report cards out today

Parents and guardians of Kagman High School students are being informed that report cards will be sent home with students today, Feb. 6, 2015. Please ask your child after school for his or her report. Should you have any questions, call KHS at 664-3780/237-3840 or email khsa-yuyu@kagmanhigh.org. ***(PR)***

San Antonio school report cards out today

San Antonio Middle School will be distributing the second quarter report cards today, Feb. 6, 2015, from 12:30pm to 4:30pm. Students will have a half-day session and will be dismissed at 12pm.

The 6th and 7th grade teachers will discuss the new 8th grade promotion requirements adopted by the board. And the 8th grade teachers will discuss if the students are on track for promotion. Parents are encouraged to take an hour or two off from work or their schedule to meet with their child's teacher. ***(PR)***

Free class on Japanese culture

The Consular Office of Japan on Saipan will organize a class about Japanese culture. Any interested person is kindly requested to register your name by Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015, by contacting the Saipan Register at cojsf@ag.mofa.go.jp.

The class will be open to just 15 people on a first-come, first-served basis.

The class will be held Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015, from 2:30pm to 4:30pm, at the conference room of the Consular Office of Japan, second floor, Bank Hawaii Building, Mariana Heights Business Park, Puerto Rico, Saipan.

The class will take up Japanese animation *Nitabo*, a story of the founder of Tsugaru, shamisen, origami (paper folding), Japanese sake, etc. ***(PR)***

PREL education conference in July

PREL is proud to announce the 29th Pacific Educational Conference, to be co-hosted with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Ministry of Education and the College of the Marshall Islands in Majuro this July.

Pre-ceremony activities will begin on July 27, 2015, with the opening ceremony dinner on July 28, 2015, where the 2014 PREL Teacher-of-the-Year award will be announced. The three-day PEC conference will be held from July 29 to 31.

Visit http://www.prel.org/sign-up/ for 2015 PEC registration and program updates, as well as other PREL news. ***(PREL)***

MHS calendar of events

Marianas High School is distributing its second quarter report cards to students today, Feb. 6, 2015. Here are other events happening this month:

- Feb. 2-6: Counselor's Week
- Feb. 16: President's Day (a holiday)
- Feb. 26: Early dismissal for high school due to professional development for all PSS staff

Should you have any questions or need to make an appointment to see your child's teacher, call the Main Office at 237-3206/5/4. You can also check our website at www.marianashighschool.com. ***(PR)***

CVES to host Canary Walk-a-Thon

San Vicente Elementary School is inviting the public to join its Canary Walk-a-Thon on Feb. 7, from 8am to noon. A total of 16 food and non-food vendors are participating. There will be performances from Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, San Vicente, Saipan Music and Dance Studio and Get Fit CNMI from 9am to 11am. Raffle tickets will be sold with chances of winning a $250 gift certificate from Fish & Tackle, live animals such as piglets, goats, chickens, pigeons, and many other consolation prizes. ***(PR)***

Joeten-Kiyu library closed this week

This is to inform the public that the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is closed up to Feb. 7, 2015, due to its annual inventory. For more information, call 235-7322/23. ***(JKPL)***

BECQ sets Tank Beach cleanup tomorrow

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Cleanup Brigade will be picking up trash at Tank Beach on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015, at 8am. If you would like to volunteer, meet the BECQ representatives on Saturday at the Tank Beach entrance at 8am. Volunteers will split into groups and clean until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will receive a brigade cap and those who participated in at least three cleanups will receive a brigade T-shirt.

For more information about volunteering, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(BECQ)***

Air Force training on FDM

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Mendinilla today, Feb. 6, from 6am to 6pm. The general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators are advised to stay clear from the area during the dates and times indicated. ***(PR)***

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invites you to locate your business or residence at one of our great locations. Maintenance Free.
Common Areas & Grounds Cleaned Daily.
Commercial Space for Rent
at our San Jose & Chalan Piao Buildings.
Sablan Building in San Jose
Units on the Second Floor are available at 50¢ per square foot.
SPECIAL RENT PROMO
Chalan Piao Building, VSS PLAZA
we have rental space available on the first floor now at 50 cents per square foot for units ranging from 541 sq. ft. to 1400 sq ft.
Large 4500 square foot space on the second floor that would be ideal for a Daycare Center, Dance Studio or Gym at 35¢ per square foot.
Second Floor - Office Space, 900 sq.ft. to 1,400 sq. ft. at 50¢ per square foot.
3rd Floor (2 Units) 2 Bedroom Apartment at $354.00/mo.
2nd Floor Office Space (2 Units) Available at Chalan Kanoa, Above Bank of Saipan - 800 Sq ft per unit at 65 cents per square foot.
Contact Tony Muna
(Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address:plebechamp80@gmail.com)
or Ben Sablan (Email Address: ben.sablan1994@gmail.com)
or Call 234-2585/235-9020

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-011

AGINGAN WWTP TRANSFORMER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of Agingan WWTP transformer in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general of removal of existing transformer, installation and connection of new three-phase pad-mounted compartmental transformer with accessories and components to riser pole, installation of bollards and other related work. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **210 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Project is funded by a grant from the United Stated of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project in contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **February 18, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-15-011, Agingan WWTP Transformer Replacement Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 12, 2015,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 20, 2015** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Manager, Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Birhen Martinez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply

MCS honors many during Catholic Schools Week 2015

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Mount Carmel School's Class of 1994 gather on stage as they are recognized as the school's first ever AlumKnight Class of the Year.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2015 AlumKnight of the Year, Merced "Marcie" Tomokane, fourth from left, with her family at the "Night with the Knights" event.

During last week's celebration of Catholic Schools Week, Mount Carmel School honored many individuals who have, in one way or another, embodied the school's values of faith, excellence, and success, and have fulfilled the school's mission to "educate the whole person to see with Christ's eyes."

ALUMKNIGHT OF THE YEAR

At Saturday's "Night with the Knights" AlumKnight fundraiser, the school awarded its AlumKnight of the Year to Bank of Guam vice president and CNMI regional manager Merced "Marcie" Tomokane. Upon receiving the award, Tomokane urged everyone gathered to continue supporting the "Save the Stage" campaign to renovate the school's historic stage and auditorium.

School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero noted the many accomplishments of Tomokane, including over 30 years of experience in banking operation and management, commercial, real estate mortgage and consumer lending, and over 10 years of experience in government finance, budgeting, accounting, investment and treasury. Deleon Guerrero also commended Tomokane's civic service, saying that in everything Tomokane does, "she always maintains her poise, a positive attitude, and a commitment to serving her community."

CLASS OF THE YEAR

At the "Night with the Knights" event, the school also announced its first ever Class of the Year award, which this year was given to the school's graduating Class of 1994. The award recognizes classes that have given back to their alma mater in a substantial manner and that represent the school's mission and philosophy. In addition to helping with the school's Save the Stage campaign, the Class of 1994 expanded the school's playground earlier this school year by donating a slide and monkey bars.

MCS director of institutional development John Blanco introduced the Class of 1994, recognizing its AlumKnights for their class unity, school spirit, and contributions to the school and the community. Members of the class were on hand to receive the award, clad in commemorative jerseys that they had made for their 20-year reunion last year. After receiving the award, the class announced another contribution to the school: a scholarship program to cover tuition for current and future students at the school.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

On Tuesday, Jan. 27, the school announced the 2015 Teacher of the Year, 6th grade teacher Frances Taimanao. This is the second time that Taimanao has won the prestigious award.

Deleon Guerrero thanked City Parking and Richard Stein for funding the Teacher of the Year program for the past six years. "Mr. Stein has demonstrated his commitment to Catholic education in general and Mount Carmel School in particular by supporting the heart of what we do, teaching," he said.

PARENTS OF THE YEAR

At Friday's Family Night celebration, the school recognized Parents of the Year: James P. Reyes, Joaquin Cepeda, Chiharu Sato, and Evangeline Villar. The school recognized the valuable contributions of parent volunteers like them. Deleon Guerrero shared with parents gathered: "These parents have generously given their time, attention, and commitment to Mount Carmel School. Their acts of volunteerism are necessary for Mount Carmel School to achieve its mission of educating the whole person to see with Christ's eyes. These contributions of time and energy also help build our school as a community of faith, knowledge, and service."

777
Treasure
Island
Since 1994
20th Anniversary
Celebration Continues
February 6 - May 31, 2015
Up to 500 items to be given away
Use your Treasure Island VIP Player Loyalty Reward card
to play and get a chance to win awesome prizes
$10 redemption = 5 tickets
Bonus Points Card
Tel: (670) 233-5100
GIG DISCO
COUNTRY HOUSE RESTAURANT
COCONUT ST.
MOBYDICK
TREASURE ISLAND GAME CLUB 1
PASEO DE MARIANAS
TO JOETEN GARAPAN
BEACH ROAD
TO AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK
You must be at least 18 years of age to enter Treasure Island Game Club and no alcohol is allowed on the premises.

Business

Staples buys Office Depot for $6B to keep pace with change

NEW YORK (AP)—Evolving shopping habits have forced yet another retailer to think outside of the box.

Staples, the nation's largest "big box" office supply chain, announced Wednesday that it's spending about $6 billion to buy its second-ranked rival, Office Depot.

The acquisition reflects a reversal of fortunes for big-box retailers. Founded in the late 1980s, Staples and Office Depot were among a group of chains led by Wal-Mart that opened thousands of super-sized stores during much of the next two decades for shoppers who wanted to buy in bulk.

AP
In this May 17, 2011 file photo, a Staples sign is displayed on the front of a Staple store, in Portland, Ore.

But shopping patterns changed in recent years as Americans have grown increasingly deal-hungry and comfortable with online shopping. Competition from smaller stores and the rise of online retailers like Amazon.com also have hurt big-box chains.

Office supply retailers also have some unique issues, though. The impact of technology on the U.S. workforce has dramatically shrunk the demand for items that were once their bread-and butter, including personal computers, ink cartridges, and printers.

In the 1990s, office supply retailers catered to the throngs of workers setting up home offices. But, now with the popularity of smartphones, people can work anywhere. They also are buying fewer PCs and other big gadgets in favor of small devices like smartphones.

Staples has been ahead of its office supplies peers in responding to the changes. It's been changing its mix of products in the stores, beefing up services like copying and offering more items online. It's also been opening smaller stores and investing in services aimed at specific small businesses.

But the brick-and-mortar office supply chain business has continued to struggle as online sales have grown. Last year, office products sold online hit $9.2 billion, accounting for 24 percent of the overall office supplies category. That's up from $2.6 billion, or 7 percent of the market, in 2004, according to Forrester Research.

Meanwhile, Office Depot's sales have been mostly on a downward slope since its fiscal 2007 year when they peaked at $15.5 billion, according to research firm FactSet. Sales rose in the latest year because of its deal with OfficeMax. Staples' sales peaked in fiscal 2011 at $25 billion, and have been down since.

No fast or slow lanes for Internet? New rules proposed

WASHINGTON (AP)—Declaring the Internet critical for the nation, a top U.S. regulator on Wednesday proposed an unprecedented expansion of federal power to ensure providers don't block or slow web traffic for America's countless users.

The proposal by Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler was a victory for advocates of "net neutrality," the idea that Internet providers must allow data to move across their networks without interference. The idea has been the subject of heavy lobbying and millions of dollars in advertising in the past year.

"Net neutrality" means that whether you're trying to buy a necklace on Etsy, stream the season premiere of Netflix's "House of Cards" or watch a music video on Google's YouTube, your Internet service provider would have to load all of those websites equally quickly.

Major Internet providers insist they have no plans to create such fast or slow lanes, but they strongly oppose the regulation, arguing that it could stifle innovation and investment. Open Internet rules had been in place but were recently knocked down by a federal court.

Wheeler's proposal attempts to erase any legal uncertainty by reclassifying the Internet as a telecommunications service and regulating it under the 1934 Communications Act. The plan would apply to both wired service provided by companies like Comcast and wireless service by companies like T-Mobile.

That would put all Internet service in the same regulatory camp as telephones and any other public utility, which Republicans and industry officials say would discourage investment and increase taxes.

Rapidly-growing Asian airlines racing to find qualified pilots

NEW YORK (AP)—The deadly crash of a TransAsia plane into a river in Taiwan is again focusing the world's attention on the safety challenges facing fast-growing Asian airlines.

TransAsia has been adding new routes rapidly since the Taiwanese carrier went public in 2011. TransAsia and others like it are rushing to keep up with a travel boom driven by the region's growing middle class.

The ease and increasing affordability of flying helps fuel economic growth and a better lifestyle for Asian consumers. But as airlines carry more passengers across increasingly crowded skies, they are also racing to train enough pilots.

"The demand is almost exceeding the supply," says John M. Cox, who spent 25 years flying for US Airways and is now CEO of consultancy Safety Operating Systems.

Quickly-growing airlines need to maintain standards as they hire more pilots, maintenance workers, dispatchers and flight attendants. Cox says the Asian carriers are currently meeting those marks, but it's a big challenge.

TransAsia Airways Flight 235 crashed Wednesday shortly after takeoff from Taipei, Taiwan, with 58 people aboard. Dramatic video from a car's dashboard camera captured the moment that the plane, tilting madly, clipped a bridge before landing in a shallow river. At least 26 people were killed.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-15-001, Rev. No.1

Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1, Songsong Village Rota, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced construction firms for Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1 in Songsong Village, Rota.

Contractor shall provide and pay for all the labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation, temporary construction of every nature and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the work within the specified time frame.

A pre-proposal site visit is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 11, 2015** at the CUC Rota Administration Office in Sinapalo, Rota. All potential proposers are encouraged to attend, to familiarize themselves with the site conditions. However the site visit is not mandatory for the potential proposers, owing to the difficult logistics and uncertain air transport.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February 12, 2015**, 10:00 a.m. (ChST) to be considered. Registered proponents of the initial CUC-RFP-15-001, are exempted from paying the package fee for CUC-RFP-15-001, Rev. No.1.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC RFP -15-001,Rev.1 Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than February 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).**

The Proposer is required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – https://marianaslabor.net/.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to CUC and the Attorney General.

A *Payment and a Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment & Performance bond shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC and the Attorney General, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 13, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Stipulated Order 2 Project Coordinator via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-15-007

CUC POWER PLANT BUILDING LOWER ROOF REPLACEMENT AT CUC POWER PLANT NO.1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced construction firms for CUC Power Plant Building Lower Roof Replacement at CUC Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Contractor shall provide and pay for all the labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation , temporary construction of every nature and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the work within the specified time frame.

A mandatory pre-proposal site visit is scheduled for **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 17, 2015** at the CUC Power Plant Administration Building in Lower Base, Saipan. All potential proposers are required to attend, to familiarize themselves with the site conditions.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February, 20, 2015, 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** to be considered.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP -15- 007 CUC Power Plant Building Lower Roof Replacement at CUC Power Plant No.1" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than March 11, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**.

The Proposer is required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – https://marianaslabor.net/.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to CUC. The proposal bond shall be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The payment and performance bond shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract. The bond shall be in an amount equal to one hundred percent of the price specified in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code*.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, Power Plant Manager via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Nation

Disneyland measles outbreak isn't largest in recent memory

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The largest U.S. measles outbreak in recent history isn't the one that started in December at Disneyland. It happened months earlier in Ohio's Amish country, where 383 people fell ill after unvaccinated Amish missionaries traveled to the Philippines and returned with the virus.

The Ohio episode drew far less attention, even though the number of cases was almost four times that of the Southern California outbreak, because it seemed to pose little threat outside close-knit religious communities.

The Disneyland outbreak has already spread well beyond the theme parks that attract tens of thousands of visitors from around the globe, who could then return home with the virus. Disease investigators for weeks raced to identify measles-stricken patients, track down potential contacts and quarantine them if necessary.

Public health experts say success at containing the outbreak will largely depend on how many unvaccinated people get the measles shot.

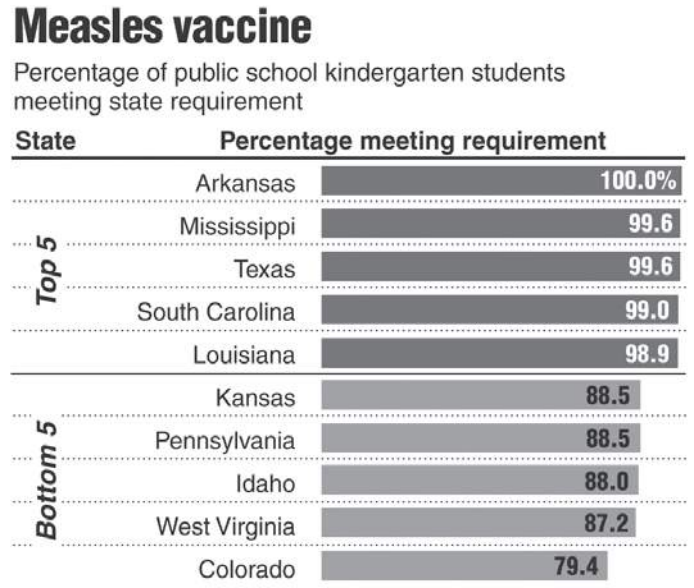
"This was a wake-up call," said Dr. James Cherry, a pediatric infectious disease expert at the University of California, Los Angeles. "It could continue to smolder" if not enough people get vaccinated.

The latest outbreak began when an infected person spread the illness to more than three dozen people at Disneyland who then exposed many others. Most were unvaccinated, according to state health officials.

In contrast, the Ohio outbreak "stayed contained within those communities, and outside people said, `Well, it doesn't really affect me.' What's different with this one is more people can relate to Disneyland," said Dr. Gregory Wallace of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

More than 100 measles cases in half a dozen states have been linked to people who visited or worked at Disneyland in December or exposure to infected people who went there. California health officials on Wednesday reported 99 measles cases including six new infections with a Disneyland connection.

Federal health officials said it's too early to predict whether this will be a particularly severe year compared with 2014, which saw more measles cases than any year since 1994. The Ohio outbreak accounted for more than half of the 644 measles cases reported last year.



SUV driver's behavior under scrutiny in deadly train crash

VALHALLA, N.Y. (AP)—Federal investigators looking into a fiery commuter train wreck that killed six people zeroed in Wednesday on what they called the big question on everyone's mind: Why was the driver of an SUV stopped on the tracks, between the lowered crossing gates?

A team from the National Transportation Safety Board arrived to examine the blackened and mangled wreckage and the Metro-North train's data recorders the morning after the rush-hour collision with the sport utility vehicle about 20 miles north of New York City.

The Tuesday evening crash was the deadliest accident in the 32-year history of one of the nation's busiest commuter railroads—one that has come under a harsh spotlight over a series of accidents in recent years. The SUV driver and five men on the train were killed, burned so badly that authorities were using dental records to identify them.

"The big question everyone wants to know is: Why was this vehicle in the crossing?" said Robert Sumwalt, NTSB vice chairman.

The wreck happened after dark in backed-up traffic in an area where the tracks are straight but driving can be tricky. Motorists exiting or entering the adjacent Taconic Parkway have to turn and cross the tracks near a wooded area and a cemetery.

The driver—whom family friends identified as 49-year-old Ellen Brody, a jewelry store employee—had calmly gotten out of her Mercedes SUV momentarily after the crossing gates came down around her and hit her car, according to the motorist behind her, Rick Hope.

ACROSS THE NATION

Lawyers: Evidence shows Saudi Arabia aided 9/11 hijackers

NEW YORK (AP)—Lawyers for victims of the Sept. 11 attacks say they have new evidence that agents of Saudi Arabia "directly and knowingly" helped the hijackers, including sworn testimony from the so-called 20th hijacker and from three principals of the U.S. government's two primary probes of the attacks. The Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Washington said in a statement Wednesday that Zacarias Moussaoui's claims come from a "deranged criminal" and that there is no evidence to support them. It said Saudi Arabia had nothing to do with the deadly 2001 attacks. The lawyers filed documents in Manhattan federal court to buttress claims Saudi Arabia supported al-Qaida and its leader at the time, Osama bin Laden, prior to the attacks. They have always said "the Saudi government directly and knowingly assisted the 9/11 hijackers," but now say facts and evidence supporting the assertion "are compelling."

US to destroy its largest remaining chemical weapons cache

PUEBLO, Colo. (AP)—The United States is about to begin destroying its largest remaining stockpile of chemical-laden artillery shells, marking a milestone in the global campaign to eradicate a debilitating weapon that still creeps into modern wars. The Pueblo Chemical Depot in southern Colorado plans to start neutralizing 2,600 tons of aging mustard agent in March as the U.S. moves toward complying with a 1997 treaty banning all chemical weapons. "The start of Pueblo is an enormous step forward to a world free of chemical weapons," said Paul Walker, who has tracked chemical warfare for more than 20 years, first as a U.S. House of Representatives staffer and currently with Green Cross International, which advocates on issues of security, poverty and the environment. The work starts less than a year after chlorine gas killed 13 people in Syria in April 2014. International inspectors concluded last month that the gas had been used as a weapon.

Man who lived modestly leaves millions in surprise donations

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. (AP)—A man who sometimes held his coat together with safety pins and had a long-time habit of foraging for firewood also had a knack for picking stocks—a talent that became public after his death when he bequeathed $6 million to his local library and hospital. The investments made by Ronald Read, a former gas station employee and janitor who died in June at age 92, "grew substantially" over the years, said his attorney Laurie Rowell. Read, who was known for his flannel shirt and baseball cap, gave no hint of the size of his fortune. "He was unbelievably frugal," Rowell said Wednesday. When Read visited her office, "sometimes he parked so far away so he wouldn't have to pay the meter." The bequest of $4.8 million to the Brattleboro Memorial Hospital and $1.2 million to the town's Brooks Memorial Library were the largest each institution has ever received. Read also made a number of smaller bequests.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Hafa Adai from PIC Saipan,

With high occupancy expected at PIC Saipan until the end of February 2015, we will be limiting the number of IP&E Day Guest passes accepted at PIC to one hundred (100) per day. The IP&E promotional coupons will be honored until Feb 28, 2015. If you are planning to use your IP&E passes, please be advised they will be honored on a first come, first served basis. No reservations will be accepted.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

PIC Saipan Management

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ATKINS KROLL, INC., Plaintiff, -v- CARMEN L. MUNA, aka CARMEN FUJIHIRA, and CINDY L. MUNA, Defendants.] CIVIL ACTION] NO. 93-0347] and consolidated cases] (S.C. Nos. 92-415, 92-517, 92-604, 92-660, 92-674, 92-680, 92-718, 92-825, 92-826, 92-829, 92-1073, 92-1325, 92-1420, 92-1484, 92-1494, 9-1563, 93-147, 93-156, 93-163, 95-411, 95-701, 97-987, 99-258, 01-1322, and 02-768)

SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 12, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Carmen L. Muna, fka Carmen Fujihira, and Edwin P. Fujihira, in and to the following property:

Lot No. 002 G 216, situated in Kagman, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,037 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 06 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1903 dated May 14, 1990.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of January, 2015:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Jesse Eric R. Reyes
P.O. Box 5609
Hagatna, GU 96932
Telephone: 285-3235

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of The Adoption Of: J.L.R. (8/18/2013) Minor Child By: JESSE ERIC REYES REYES and KATHY MIYAGI TOVES REYES Petitioners] CIVIL ACTION] NO. 14-0556] NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on February 9, 2015 at 1:30p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Honorable Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 30th day of December, 2014

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
By: /s/Deputy Clerk of Court

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- ENRIQUE Q. SALAS and ROSARIO T. SALAS, Defendants.] CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0067

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on January 27, 2015, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 245, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 903 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 07 dated May 31, 1980, Commonwealth Recorder's File no. 90-1904, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 31st day of January, 2015:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- HENRY O. OGO, Defendant.] CIVIL ACTION] NO. 07-0436

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 16, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 345 R 321, situated in Sinapalo I, Rota, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 950 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 07 dated July 1, 1984, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of January, 2015:

/s/MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

Asia

Mayday call issued before Taiwan plane crash that killed 31

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The pilot in TransAsia Airways Flight 235 said "mayday, mayday, engine flameout" moments before the propjet banked sharply and crashed into a river, aviation officials said Thursday, but they declined comment on a possible cause for the accident.

Video images of the plane's final moments in the air captured on car dashboard cameras do not appear to show any flames as it turned sharply, with its wings going vertical and clipping a highway bridge before plunging into the Keelung River Wednesday, killing at least 31 people. Fifteen people were injured, and the search continued for 12 people still missing.

Taiwan's Civil Aeronautical Administration released a snippet of audio including the pilot's mayday call, and an agency official who declined to be named confirmed the mayday distress call on Thursday but did not say how it might relate to a cause for the crash.

Both the administration and the airline, Taipei-based TransAsia Airways, declined to speculate on causes for the crash at about 10:55 a.m. near the capital city's downtown airport. The plane's black box was found overnight. The pilots' bodies have not yet been recovered.

The ATR 72 propeller jet suddenly banked 90 degrees within two minutes of takeoff and descended on its side into the Keelung River. It clipped a bridge and a taxi moments before the crash.

Relatives of some of the 31 passengers from China will reach Taipei on a charter flight Thursday afternoon. Among the Taiwanese family of victims, one woman cried speechlessly in front of reporters and others turned their heads. Local television filmed a mainland Chinese man scolding a travel agency for its handling of injured passengers.

Among the survivors was a family of three, including a prematurely born boy whose heart stopped beating after three minutes under water. He recovered after receiving CPR, his brother Lin Ming-yi told reporters.

About 10 Taipei fire agency divers are looking for any more bodies that may be at the cold river bottom. The fuselage, largely dismantled by hydraulic rescue tools, has been moved to a riverbank alongside recovered luggage.

Another ATR 72 operated by the same Taipei-based airline crashed in the outlying Taiwan-controlled islands of Penghu last July 23, killing 48 at the end of a typhoon for reasons that are still under investigation.

ATR, a French-Italian consortium based in Toulouse, France, said it was sending a team to Taiwan to help in the investigation.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippines protests Chinese ramming of 3 fishing boats

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines protested to Beijing on Wednesday after a Chinese coast guard ship allegedly rammed and damaged three Philippine fishing boats at a disputed shoal in the South China Sea. The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila also said it lodged a separate protest with Beijing over the collection of endangered giant clams by Chinese fishermen, destroying in the process coral outcrops at Scarborough Shoal off the northwestern Philippines. The reported Jan. 29 ramming is the latest incident involving the territorial rift. In February last year, the Philippine government summoned China's top envoy in Manila to protest what it said was the firing of a water cannon by a Chinese government vessel to drive away Filipino fishermen from Scarborough. China ignored the protest and called its sovereignty there "indisputable." The Chinese Embassy did not issue any immediate comment on Wednesday.

Vietnam buries thousands of cats smuggled for restaurants

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnamese authorities have buried thousands of cats, many apparently still alive, that were seized after being smuggled in a truck from China for restaurants, a police officer said Wednesday. Cat meat is easily available in some restaurants in Vietnam, especially in the north near the Chinese border, even though the government in 1998 ordered such restaurants closed and banned the trade of cats because they are a predator to rats, which destroy crops. The cats that were buried were dealt with in accordance with the law because they posed an environmental and health risk, said the police officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. He confirmed that live cats were buried but was uncertain how many.

US analysis suggests PH killed terror suspect

WASHINGTON (AP)—DNA analysis suggests that Philippine authorities have killed one of Southeast Asia's most wanted terror suspects in a recent clash with Muslim rebels, the FBI said Wednesday.

Philippine President President Benigno Aquino III last week said that the suspect, a Malaysian called Zulkifli bin Hir—best known as Marwan—was apparently killed during a Jan. 25 operation in the southern Philippines in which 44 police commandos died.

But Philippine officials and the FBI have said additional tests are needed to confirm Marwan's death.

In a statement Wednesday the FBI confirmed that laboratory examiners would conduct "further testing and analysis in an effort to fully identify the subject of DNA provided to the FBI." The biological sample supplied by the Philippines does not provide absolute identification of the suspect, but "the results do support that the biological sample provided by Philippine authorities came from Marwan," the FBI added.

The U.S. has offered up to $5 million for Marwan's capture. He is on the FBI list of most-wanted terrorists and among the last few known surviving militants of his generation of al Qaida-inspired extremists who survived the anti-terror crackdowns in Asia following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the U.S.

A U.S.-educated engineer, Marwan is believed to have been born in Malaysia's Muar town in Johor province in 1966. Known as a master bomb-maker, he had more than two dozen aliases and spoke the languages of Malaysia and the Philippines, along with English and Arabic.

Marwan headed a terrorist group called the Kumpulun Mujahidin Malaysia and was a senior member of the Indonesia-based Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist network.

The Jemaah Islamiyah was blamed for the 2002 nightclub bombings that killed 202 people in Bali, Indonesia. Marwan allegedly helped plot numerous bombings and other attacks.

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TRASH COLLECTION SERVICES
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-003-15

INVITATION FOR BID

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids for Trash Collection Services for a period of two years at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The bid package will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building beginning Friday, January 30, 2015. All responses to this IFB shall take into account any costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Bid for the Trash Collection Services at the Francisco C. Ada/ Saipan International Airport, Project On. CPA-IFB-003-15". One original and three (3) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 P.M. LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2015, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Departure Terminal Conference Room, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at 10:00 am, Friday, February 13, 2015 to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. All prospective bidders may attend. Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director in writing at least 7 days prior to the pre-bid conference.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Invitation For Bids; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

CPA assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidder due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of bidder's preparation of the bid or supply under the contract. This IFB does not commit CPA to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Executive Director

Date: January 23, 2015

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE DCRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG. Torres through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a DCRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, at 2:00 P.M. at the Bureau Of Environment Coastal Quality Conference Room, Gualo Rai Center, Suite 205, Middle Road, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
a) Call to Order
b) Roll Call
II. PERMIT APPLICATION
1. Honest Profit International Limited – Honest Profit Resort Hotel
CRM Permit No. SMS-2014-X-066
a) Permit Application Summary
b) Discussion by DCRM Agency/DCRM
c) Permit Application Status
2. Department of Public Works – Route 33 Beach Road Project
CRM Permit No. SMS-2015-X-003
a) Permit Application Summary
b) Discussion by DCRM Agency/DCRM
c) Permit Application Status
3. H.S. Lee Construction – 3-Story Commercial Space Rental and Hotel
CRM Permit No. SMS-2015-X-005
a) Permit Application Summary
b) Discussion by DCRM Agency/DCRM
c) Permit Application Status
4. Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC – Archaeological Recovery
CRM Permit No. SMS-2015-X-006
a) Permit Application Summary
b) Discussion by DCRM Agency/DCRM
c) Permit Application Status
III. OTHER MATTERS
IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items.

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ Frances A. Castro,
Director, DCRM

World

Westerners join Kurds fighting Islamic State group in Iraq

SINJAR, Iraq (AP)—As Kurdish fighters gathered around a fire in this damp, frigid mountain town in northwestern Iraq, exhausted from battling the Islamic State group, a surprising recruit wearing a tactical vest with the words "Christ is Lord" scribbled on it joined them.

The fighter, with a sniper rifle slung over his shoulder and a Rambo-styled bandanna around his head, is 28-year-old Jordan Matson from Sturtevant, Wisconsin, a former U.S. Army soldier who joined the Kurds to fight the extremist group now holding a third of Iraq and neighboring Syria.

"I'm not going back until the fight is finished and ISIS is crippled," Matson told The Associated Press, using an alternate acronym for the militant group. "I decided that if my government wasn't going to do anything to help this country, especially Kurdish people who stood by us for 10 years and helped us out while we were in this country, then I was going to do something."

Matson and dozens of other Westerners now fight with the Kurds, spurred on by Kurdish social media campaigners and a sense of duty rooted in the 2003-2011 U.S.-led military intervention in Iraq. And while the U.S. and its coalition allies bomb the extremists from the air, Kurds say they hope more Westerners will join them on the ground to fight.

Foreigners joining other people's wars is nothing new, from the French Foreign Legion to the International Brigades of the Spanish Civil War.

AP

In this Thursday, Jan. 29, 2015 photo, Jordan Matson, 28, right, a former U.S. Army soldier from Sturtevant, Wis., takes a break with other fighters from the main Kurdish militia, the People's Protection Units, or YPG, in Sinjar, Iraq.

Rocket fire kills at least 5 near hospital in Donetsk

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP)—Rocket salvoes hit a previously safe section of Ukraine's rebel stronghold of Donetsk on Wednesday, killing at least five people and damaging a hospital, six schools and five kindergartens, rebels said.

The fighting between Russia-backed separatists and government troops in eastern Ukraine escalated sharply in January, with more than 220 civilians killed in the past three weeks alone, according to the United Nations. The world body has sharply criticized both sides for indiscriminate shelling that is causing civilian deaths.

The rebel-run Donetsk News Agency, citing police, reported five people killed by shelling around the hospital in the city's western Tekstilshchik district. City officials in Donetsk said the number of casualties could not immediately be established.

Jordan says IS can be defeated; uproar over burn video

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—Jordan called Wednesday for a decisive battle against the Islamic State group, declaring "this evil can and should be defeated," after the militants burned a Jordanian pilot to death in a cage and gleefully broadcast the horrific images on outdoor screens in their stronghold.

Waves of revulsion over the killing washed across the Middle East, a region long accustomed to violence. In mosques, streets and coffee shops, Muslims denounced the militants' brutality and distanced themselves from their violent version of Islam.

Even a prominent preacher with close links to jihadi groups said Islamic State militants miscalculated if they hoped the images of the pilot's agony would galvanize greater opposition to a U.S.-led military coalition that has been bombing targets of the group.

"After millions of Muslims were cursing every pilot (in the coalition), with this act, they (IS) have made the burned one into a symbol," Abdullah al-Muhaysni, a Saudi sheik, wrote on his Twitter account.

The Islamic State group, which controls large areas of Iraq and Syria, has killed captives in the past, posting videos of beheadings and sparking widespread condemnation. However, the killing of Lt. Muath al-Kaseasbeh, who crashed over Syria in December, also highlighted the vulnerability of Jordan, a key Western ally in the region, to threats from extremists.

Jordan was long considered an island of relative stability in a turbulent region, but in recent years had to absorb hundreds of thousands of war refugees, first from Iraq and then Syria, at a time of a sharp economic downturn.

G4S

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: January 28, 2015 Closing Date: Until Filled

G4S Training Academy is accepting applications for the following position in various disciplines to establish a list.

PART-TIME INSTRUCTOR
SALARY: NEGOTIABLE

We are actively seeking individuals who are detail oriented, and have a passion for facilitating meaningful learning of the course competencies and curriculum.

Prospective Instructor should be:
- Responsible for instructing and facilitating meaningful learning of course competencies and curriculum.
- Fosters a culture of learning and delivers interactive, dynamic and energetic training style necessary to engage multicultural students.
- Supports all facets of learning environment and learning assessments.

PREFERRED: U.S. citizen, permanent resident, or FAS citizen.
EDUCATION: Applicants claiming degrees or credit hours are required to provide college transcript.

WHERE TO APPLY:
Applications are available at G4S Office located at Beach Road Ladera Building, Chalan Lau-lau. For more information call (670) 234-3238 or email at trainingacademy@gu.g4s.com

Business Development Manager - China

Bridge Immigration Investments is seeking a highly motivated and driven Business Professional with a proven track record of success to support our growing Residence and Citizenship-by-Investment business, primarily focusing on our US EB5 Visa Program.

Core Competencies and Experience
- You are energetic, self-motivated, outgoing, hands-on and willing to take the initiative, with very strong negotiation skills
- You are able to self-manage and are goal and results driven
- Your interpersonal, oral and written communication, presentation and organizational skills are excellent
- You demonstrate passion, persistence, creativity and a determination to get things done
- You have verifiable success in working in the legal, financial services, real estate or 'immigrant investor' industries
- Knowledge and experience of the 'immigrant investor' market is preferable but not essential
- An undergraduate degree in Law, Business, Economics or Marketing is ideal
- You must have a willingness to travel
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office products including, but not limited to, Word, Excel, Outlook and PowerPoint
- Excellent command of written and spoken English and Chinese.

Responsibilities
- Reporting to the CEO of the Saipan office, you will be accountable for generating significant business revenue each year, and meeting agreed sales and business targets as defined by management
- Developing new business via developing sales and marketing channels with Marketing Agents in China
- Working with other internal departments to develop appropriate solutions in order to maximize business success
- Planning, preparing, and executing high impact meetings with client prospects and potential partners
- Helping with the preparation and translation of our marketing collaterals in to Chinese
- Maximizing revenue growth with existing accounts and our partner base
- Representing Bridge Immigration at industry events and conferences

Scope
- Salary: From USD 2,500 plus excellent commission driven compensation (depending on experience). Accommodation in Saipan can be provided for the first 2 months.
- Applicants will be primarily based in our Saipan head office but will be expected to travel reasonably regularly
- Applicants with networks and interest in developing the China market will be considered for this role

Contact
A full Curriculum Vitae and Covering Letter should be sent to Philip James at phil.james@bccnmi.com

Bridge Capital, LLC, PMB 29 Box 10001, Saipan MP 96950

Executive Assistant Job Description

Our fast-growing international investment company, based in the CNMI, is looking for an Executive Assistant to support the Vice President/Chief Operational Officer with his day-to-day administrative needs and organizational duties. The responsibilities of this position include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Responsible for the effective coordination and follow-up of the activities and commitments of the VP/COO by producing and managing a master calendar of key events, dates, and deadlines that are critical to the conduct of the company's business.
- Researches, prioritizes, and follows up on incoming issues and concerns addressed to the VP/COO and determines the appropriate course of action, referral or response. Exercises sound judgment by keeping the VP/COO abreast of any issues that may arise internally and/or externally which could potentially impact the VP/COO or the company as a whole.
- Composes and prepares correspondence that may be confidential in nature. Communicates with a high degree of discretion, via phone, email, and US mail to directors, councils, management, staff, public, vendors, and other organizations.
- Prioritizes conflicting demands; handles matters expeditiously, proactively and follows through on projects to successful completion.
- Provides high level research and editorial support to the VP/COO.
- Arranges corporate travel and meetings by developing itineraries and agendas; booking flights and other transportation; arranging lodging and meeting accommodations.
- Completes projects and special assignments by establishing objectives; determining priorities; managing time; gaining cooperation of others; monitoring progress; problem solving; making adjustments to plans.
- Organizes relevant documents to be reviewed by VP/COO to be catalogued into the Company's database.
- Performs other duties as necessary.

Requirements:
- Excellent oral and written communication and human relation skills.
- Must work well in a team environment and must be able to build and maintain effective working relationships.
- Ability to maintain and protect the confidentiality of information.
- Must be poised, patient, courteous, and maintain a professional manner.
- Willingness to work a flexible schedule to achieve the needs of the company.
- Must be detail oriented, results oriented, and be able to multi-task and work in a fast paced environment.
- Must work well under pressure, set and meet deadlines, be able to manage several priorities in a day.
- Must be dependable, adaptable, creative, and self-motivated.
- Bachelor's degree or equivalent work experience is required.
- Administrative support in legal industry or related field preferred.
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite.

Bridge Capital, LLC, PMB 29 Box 10001, Saipan MP 96950
or email at reneacia.sannicolas@bccnmi.com

Marketing Executive / Personal Assistant (Chinese Speaking)

Bridge Immigration Investments is seeking a highly motivated and driven Business Professional with a proven track record of success to support our growing Residence and Citizenship-by-Investment business, primarily focusing on our US EB5 Visa Program.

Job Descriptions:
- Collect necessary information from related parties and generate various reports such as sales reports and market analysis in English or Chinese;
- Translate relevant news / articles and other information in different languages (English/Chinese) and share the information with management;
- Assist the CEO to create monthly reports;
- Assist Senior Management to prepare presentation materials in Chinese;
- Work with our IT department to translate / add Chinese content on our websites
- Perform general administration duties including but not limited to filing, meeting preparation, travel bookings, online research etc.;
- Support the CEO in day-to-day operations

Job Requirements:
- Bachelor Degree in Business Management, Administration and Marketing or related disciplines;
- 2 years or above working experience and experience in the legal, financial services, real estate or 'immigrant investor' industries preferred
- Well versed with PC applications like MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Chinese Word

Processing;
- Excellent command of both spoken and written English and Chinese;
- Self-motivated, good writing and presentation skills
- Energetic and outgoing personality

Scope
- Salary: From USD 1,500 plus annual bonus. Short term accommodation will be provided.
- Applicants will need to work in our head office in Saipan then may be expected to travel between head office and China with the CEO

Contact
A full Curriculum Vitae and Covering Letter should be sent to Philip James at phil.james@bccnmi.com

Bridge Capital, LLC, PMB 29 Box 10001, Saipan MP 96950

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-004

Opening Date: Friday, February 06, 2015
Closing Date: Thursday, February 19, 2015

Trades Assistant (Operator)

Duties: Work under the direct supervision of the Deputy Director or his/her designee. Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools. Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues. Responds to trouble calls as needed. Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site. Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used. Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete. Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports. Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities. Servicing equipment by disassembling, assembling, cleaning and calibrating; Assisting with equipment inspections; Monitoring gauges on engine generators; Reading meters and collecting data; Monitor and maintain pump fuel; Operating incinerators; Operating oil and water separator pump; Servicing and preparing oil filters; Responding to customer calls; Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing obstacles; Fabricating materials for required parts. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION(S): Power Plant, **Rota,** Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $16,742.00 per annum.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

POSITION(S): One (1).

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the job such as those listed above, unless otherwise subject to any other requirements set forth in law or regulation. Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a CNMI driver's license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants may be tested AND are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man trapped upside down in Seattle rail car for 18 hours

SEATTLE (AP)—Firefighters have rescued a man who was trapped for about 18 hours upside down in a parked rail car in Seattle. The fire department says the man apparently crawled into a chute on the car, which is designed to carry dry bulk materials. Dispatchers received 911 calls about 8 a.m. Wednesday from the nearby Burke-Gilman Trail, where people heard someone yelling for help. Rescuers found the 25-year-old with his feet sticking up. Fire Department spokesman Kyle Moore tells KOMO that he was stuck overnight in a confined space. Firefighters pulled him out by his feet. He was stiff and cold and got taken to a hospital to be checked out.

Dog undergoes surgery after eating parts of calf-high boots

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Veterinarians say a dog is recovering after surgery to remove parts of a pair of calf-high leather boots the animal had eaten. The Veterinary Specialty and Emergency Center in Philadelphia says the 4-year-old mixed breed named Vince ate parts of both boots on Friday. Specialists say the volume consumed was so large that the dog's stomach was unable to pass the material into the small intestines, so the pet underwent surgery Saturday. Specialists say surgery or endoscopy is often needed when dogs eat something they shouldn't, since it can obstruct the digestive tract and perforate the intestines. If pets are experiencing vomiting, lethargy or lack of appetite, it may be a sign a foreign object is present, and the animals should be taken to a veterinarian as soon as possible.

Australian wins race up Empire State Building in 12 minutes

NEW YORK (AP)—An Australian woman won the annual race up the Empire State Building's stairs for the sixth time, a record for the women's event. Suzy Walsham dashed up 1,576 steps to the 86th-floor observatory in the Empire State Building Run-Up on Wednesday night in 12 minutes and 30 seconds. The men's race was won by German runner Christian Riedel, a first-time winner who came in at 10 minutes and 16 seconds. The 38th annual tower climb was organized by the New York Road Runners, which also puts together the New York City Marathon. The participants came from around the world and were led by the elite women's and men's groups. The general field followed, with staggered, seconds-apart start times for racers to avoid a crush of people all trying to get into the stairwell at the same time. Last year, Walsham won the women's event in 11 minutes and 57 seconds and Thorbjorn Ludvigsen, of Norway, won the men's race in 10 minutes and 6 seconds.

Ohio man pleads guilty to selling fake urine for drug tests

PITTSBURGH (AP)—An Ohio man who sold fake urine and other products meant to help people pass workplace drug tests has pleaded guilty before a federal judge in Pennsylvania. David Neal, 61 of Middletown, Ohio, pleaded guilty Monday to conspiracy to defraud the United States and introduction of misbranded drugs into interstate commerce. He faces up to six years in prison when he returns to Pittsburgh for sentencing May 13. U.S. Attorney David Hickton said Neal sold illegal substances online beginning in 2006 through his company, ACS Herbal Tea. Some of Neal's products, including "Magnum Unisex Synthetic Urine" and "Urine Luck," were designed to thwart tests overseen by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Such tests are used by the U.S. Department of Transportation to screen airline pilots, truck drivers and train engineers, as well as some federal employees, including FBI agents.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-010

Opening Date: Monday, February 02, 2015
Closing Date: Friday, February 13, 2015

Trades Technician: Electrician
Power Generation

DUTIES: This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department. Primary duties are as a electrician for a diesel engine power plant. Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility; provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures. Provides assistance in monitoring regulatory compliance. Operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility. Identifies issues and operational concerns; performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions. Receives customer inquiries and trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates. Monitors inventory and supplies; maintains required supply levels; initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas. Takes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders and data; and prepares reports. Operating, starting, stopping, synchronizing, and/or regulating power and reactive load on generators; Operating feeder circuit breakers during routine and emergency conditions; Testing and repairing transformers; Monitoring fuel and lubrication oil levels, input/output calculations, and refill requests; Issuing and ordering of parts, tools, chemicals and other supplies; Performing reconditioning of used parts; Performing alignment of pump and motors at auxiliary sites; Welding, cutting, grinding and fabricating materials; Calculating fuels supply and usage and preparing for fuel transfer. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : $20,826 to $28,115 per annum.
POSITIONS : One (1)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing electrician duties. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures;
Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area;
Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-011

Opening Date: Monday, February 02, 2015
Closing Date: Friday, February 13, 2015

Trades Technician: Machinist
Power Generation

DUTIES: This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department. Primary duties are as a machinist for a diesel engine power plant. Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility; provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures. Provides assistance in monitoring regulatory compliance. Operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility. Identifies issues and operational concerns; performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions. Receives customer inquiries and trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates. Monitors inventory and supplies; maintains required supply levels; initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas. Takes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders and data; and prepares reports. Operating, starting, stopping, synchronizing, and/or regulating power and reactive load on generators; Operating feeder circuit breakers during routine and emergency conditions; Testing and repairing transformers; Monitoring fuel and lubrication oil levels, input/output calculations, and refill requests; Issuing and ordering of parts, tools, chemicals and other supplies; Performing reconditioning of used parts; Performing alignment of pump and motors at auxiliary sites; Welding, cutting, grinding and fabricating materials; Calculating fuels supply and usage and preparing for fuel transfer. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : $20,826 to $28,115 per annum.
POSITIONS : One (1)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing machinist duties. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures;
Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area;
Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-008

Opening Date: Monday, February 02, 2015
Closing Date: Friday, February 13, 2015

Trades Foreperson: Mechanic
Power Generation

DUTIES: This class is the fourth level in a four level Trades series. Incumbents provide lead technical supervision to maintenance and trades staff. As assigned, incumbents perform the journey level maintenance and/or operational activities of those they lead in assigned area of responsibility (mechanic). Primary duties are as a mechanical foreperson in a diesel engine power plant. Responsibilities as assigned may include coordinating the work of lower level staff; troubleshooting problems; providing customer service; operating and maintaining complex instrumentation, equipment and/or testing equipment; compiling data and preparing regulatory reports; and, troubleshooting complex maintenance and operational problems. Incumbents supervise other Trades staff including conducting performance evaluations, coordinating training; and implementing hiring, discipline and termination procedures. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department. Supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; ensuring that employees follow policies and procedures; maintaining a healthy and safe working environment; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations. Prepares daily work schedules and submits for approval; prepares justification of schedules; and ensures necessary materials and tools are available and meet quality standards. Oversees and performs journey level maintenance, installation, and/or operational activities in assigned service area; provides technical advice and guidance to staff. Performs inventory and supply checks of tools, equipment, parts and materials; identifies resource needs and processes requisitions; ensures availability of resources to meet project and operational needs. Gathers and compiles data; prepares and maintains regulatory and status reporting. Performs inspections of projects and operations; provides troubleshooting of complex maintenance and operational problems; recommends and/or implements solutions. Ensures policies and procedures are adhered to, and that service quality and productivity levels are maintained. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : $28,935 to $39,062 per annum.
POSITIONS : One (1)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma or General Education Diploma or Adult Basic Education. Must demonstrate having had (A) 5 years of journey level experience are in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those 5 years of journey level experience are to be performing Mechanical duties. At least one (1) of the four (5) years must include leading a crew. Graduation from a Vocational/Technical Institution as a mechanic. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff; Performing and overseeing skilled journey level maintenance, operations and installation work in assigned area; Performing inspections of projects and operations to ensure quality and productivity levels; Ensuring the adherence to policies and procedures; Troubleshooting complex maintenance and operational issues; Recommending and implementing solutions; Providing technical guidance and advice to staff; Monitoring supply levels of resource materials and equipment; Processing requisitions to meet resource needs for projects and operations; Gathering and compiling data; Preparing and maintaining regulatory and status reports and related documentation; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-009

Opening Date: Monday, February 02, 2015
Closing Date: Friday, February 13, 2015

Trades Technician: Mechanic
Power Generation

DUTIES: This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department. Primary duties are as a mechanic for a diesel engine power plant. Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility; provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures. Provides assistance in monitoring regulatory compliance. Operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility. Identifies issues and operational concerns; performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions. Receives customer inquiries and trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates. Monitors inventory and supplies; maintains required supply levels; initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas. Takes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders and data; and prepares reports. Operating, starting, stopping, synchronizing, and/or regulating power and reactive load on generators; Operating feeder circuit breakers during routine and emergency conditions; Testing and repairing transformers; Monitoring fuel and lubrication oil levels, input/output calculations, and refill requests; Issuing and ordering of parts, tools, chemicals and other supplies; Performing reconditioning of used parts; Performing alignment of pump and motors at auxiliary sites; Welding, cutting, grinding and fabricating materials; Calculating fuels supply and usage and preparing for fuel transfer. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.culating fuels supply and usage and preparing for fuel transfer. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : $20,826 to $28,115 per annum.
POSITIONS : Four (4)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing mechanic duties. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures;
Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area;
Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-012

Opening Date: Monday, February 02, 2015
Closing Date: Friday, February 13, 2015

Trades Technician: Operator
Power Generation

DUTIES: This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department. Primary duties are as a operator for a diesel engine power plant. Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility; provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures. Provides assistance in monitoring regulatory compliance. Operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility. Identifies issues and operational concerns; performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions. Receives customer inquiries and trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates. Monitors inventory and supplies; maintains required supply levels; initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas. Takes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders and data; and prepares reports. Operating, starting, stopping, synchronizing, and/or regulating power and reactive load on generators; Operating feeder circuit breakers during routine and emergency conditions; Testing and repairing transformers; Monitoring fuel and lubrication oil levels, input/output calculations, and refill requests; Issuing and ordering of parts, tools, chemicals and other supplies; Performing reconditioning of used parts; Performing alignment of pump and motors at auxiliary sites; Welding, cutting, grinding and fabricating materials; Calculating fuels supply and usage and preparing for fuel transfer. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : $20,826 to $28,115 per annum.
POSITIONS : Two (2)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing operator duties. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures;
Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area;
Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-013

Opening Date: Monday, February 02, 2015
Closing Date: Friday, February 13, 2015

Trades Technician: Welder
Power Generation

DUTIES: This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of the department. Primary duties are as a welder for a diesel engine power plant. Performs maintenance, operations, installations and/or repairs in assigned area of responsibility; provides technical guidance regarding assigned functions; and ensures quality service levels in accordance with proper procedures. Provides assistance in monitoring regulatory compliance. Operates specialized and heavy equipment; performs maintenance activities and skilled repairs to equipment, infrastructure and/or other items of assigned area of responsibility. Identifies issues and operational concerns; performs inspections; provides troubleshooting; evaluates corrective measures or options; recommends and implements solutions and corrective actions. Receives customer inquiries and trouble calls; responds to requests and provides information or status updates. Monitors inventory and supplies; maintains required supply levels; initiates requests for the replenishment of materials and supplies; cleans, organizes and maintains work and supply areas. Takes readings of equipment; maintains records, logs, orders and data; and prepares reports. Operating, starting, stopping, synchronizing, and/or regulating power and reactive load on generators; Operating feeder circuit breakers during routine and emergency conditions; Testing and repairing transformers; Monitoring fuel and lubrication oil levels, input/output calculations, and refill requests; Issuing and ordering of parts, tools, chemicals and other supplies; Performing reconditioning of used parts; Performing alignment of pump and motors at auxiliary sites; Welding, cutting, grinding and fabricating materials; Calculating fuels supply and usage and preparing for fuel transfer. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION : **Power Generation**, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
(If needed, there may be periodic assignment to other divisions of CUC and/or other islands.)
SALARY : $20,826 to $28,115 per annum.
POSITIONS : Two (2)
CONTRACT : Not Contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education. Must demonstrate having had (A) 4 years of increasingly responsible experience in a diesel engine power plant and (B) those 4 years of increasingly responsible experience are to be performing welder duties. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Principles, practices and procedures of assigned service area; Customer service principles; Mathematical concepts; Inventory maintenance practices; Inspection procedures;
Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Performing skilled maintenance, operations and repair work in assigned area; Reviewing quality levels and providing technical guidance in assigned area;
Operating specialized and heavy equipment; Monitoring equipment and making adjustments; Performing inspections and identifying issues; Troubleshooting issues and recommending or implementing solutions; Receiving requests and trouble calls and providing assistance; Monitoring inventory and supplies; Initiating supply requests; Taking equipment readings and maintaining reading data; Preparing and updating activity logs and status reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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Life & Style

Amid 'Mockingbird' sequel buzz, worries about Lee's wishes

MONROEVILLE, Ala. (AP)—Hometown friends and fans of "To Kill A Mockingbird" author Harper Lee are struggling to reconcile a publisher's sensational announcement—that her decades-old manuscript for a sequel had been rediscovered and will be released—with the image of the elderly writer at her sister's recent funeral.

Grieving, ill and seated in a wheelchair, Lee talked loudly to herself at awkward times during the service for her beloved older sister and attorney, Alice, according to two family friends who attended the November service. Lee mumbled in a manner that shocked some in attendance, said one of the friends.

Both spoke on condition that they not be identified—one for fear of upsetting those handling the author's affairs, the other not wanting to upset the family.

That scene seemed at odds with Tuesday's announcement by an arm of HarperCollins Publishers that included an eloquent statement attributed to Lee, 88, who spends her days in an assisted living center not far from where she grew up in this south Alabama town, the inspiration for "Mockingbird." The publisher said Tonja Carter, an attorney who practiced with Alice Lee, found an unpublished manuscript titled "Go Set a Watchman," and that it will be released in July as a sequel to the beloved novel.

Lee

"I am humbled and amazed that this will now be published after all these years," Lee was quoted as saying.

Townspeople say it is common knowledge that Lee is deaf, blind and in poor health—she had a stroke some years ago.

But publisher Jonathan Burnham said in a telephone interview Tuesday that he was "completely confident" she was fully involved in the decision to release the book.

He acknowledged, though, that he had had no direct contact with Lee regarding the new book and had last seen her years ago, for a celebration of her 80th birthday. Burnham said he relied in part on reports from literary agent Andrew Nurnberg, who had found Lee "feisty" and enthusiastic about the new book.

Attorney: Friend found Bobbi Kristina Brown face-down in tub

ATLANTA (AP)—An attorney said Wednesday that it was his client who found Bobbi Kristina Brown face-down in a bathtub last week and called emergency services, not Brown's partner.

Maxwell Lomas, 24, of Duluth, Georgia—not Nick Gordon—found Brown on Jan. 31 at a townhome in suburban Atlanta, said attorney Philip Holloway. Lomas and the 25-year-old Gordon were both listed in the police report as being at the home when investigators arrived.

"He immediately pulled her from the water and called 911 as well as alerting other people in the house," Holloway said of Lomas. "He did whatever he could do to assist in resuscitative measures until first responders arrived."

Brown is the only daughter of singers Bobby Brown and Whitney Houston, who was also found unresponsive in a bathtub on Feb. 11, 2012 and later died. Authorities found a dozen prescription drug bottles in her Beverly Hills Hotel suite and listed heart disease and cocaine use as contributors, but concluded that she accidentally drowned.

On Jan. 15, 2015, Lomas was arrested and charged with weapons offenses, possession of marijuana with intent to distribute, and possession of a prescription anxiety medication. Lomas pleaded not guilty to the charges, according to Holloway, who said the arrest is unrelated to Brown being found in the bathtub.

"He remains in the Metropolitan Atlanta area and has been questioned by police as have many other people," Holloway said. The attorney described Lomas as a close friend and frequent house guest of Brown's.

Bobbi Kristina Brown has commented often about her marriage to Gordon, the orphaned young man she grew up with after Houston brought him into the family. But her father's lawyer says they never wed.

"To correct earlier reports, Bobbi Kristina is not and has never been married to Nick Gordon," reads a statement released Tuesday by R&B singer Bobby Brown's attorney, Christopher Brown.

Legal authority over Bobbi Kristina's health care and money could become a critical issue for the fractious Houston-Brown family, which has said that Bobbi Kristina "is fighting for her life" after being found face-down in her bathtub on Saturday.

Gordon has not spoken publicly since Bobbi Kristina was found in the tub. Police said he attempted to revive her while Lomas called police, and that she was alive when rushed to a hospital.

Whitney Houston never formally adopted Gordon, but raised the two teenagers together after divorcing Brown.

Three E.B. White classics will soon be available as e-books

NEW YORK (AP)—Three E.B. White classics read by millions of parents to their children will soon be available on the digital screen.

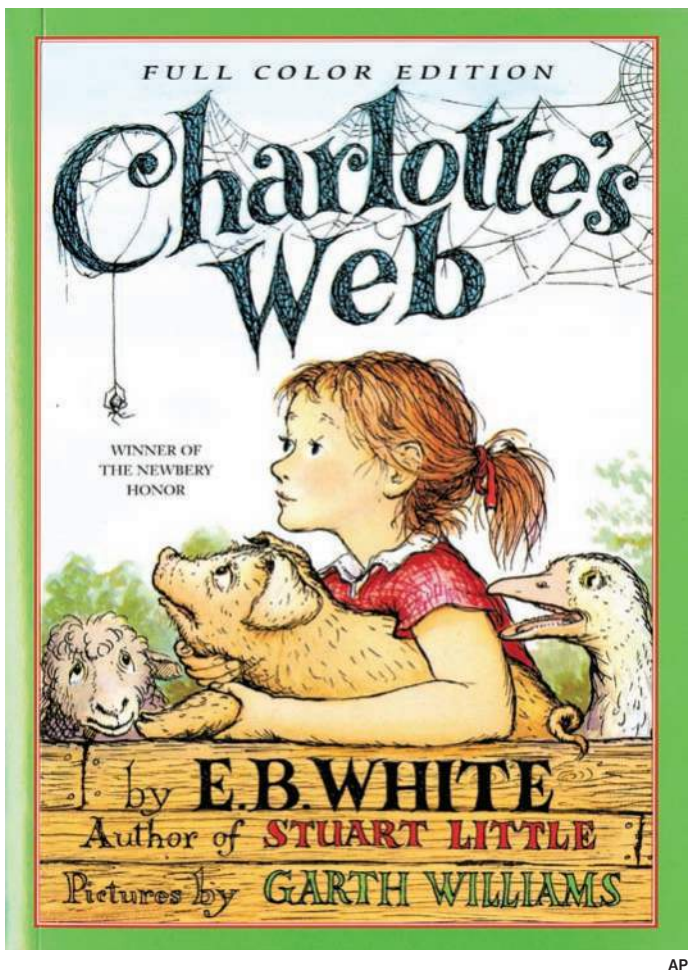
HarperCollins announced Wednesday that "Charlotte's Web," "Stuart Little" and "The Trumpet of the Swan" can be purchased as e-books starting March 17. White's granddaughter Martha White told The Associated Press that family members had worried electronic sales would hurt business for their preferred format, paper.

"After discussing this with our agent (Amanda Urban), it's become apparent to us that e-books complement sales of paper books, instead of replacing sales," White said. "The print books of 'Stuart Little' and 'Charlotte's Web' have been selling strongly, and we felt like it was time to allow the books into the market in other formats."

White, whose grandfather died in 1985, said she imagined the e-editions being read by travelers, at airports and train stations, or by people in waiting rooms at doctors' offices. But she hoped that at home families would still use the paper edition.

"I think the routines and rituals around reading to children still mean sitting on a bed or in an armchair with an adult, and the print book is the best format for that," she said.

The publishing industry has long debated whether e-books expand the overall market or simply shift the market away from paper, for which sales have been flat at best over the past several years. One area that has seen growth in both categories: young adult/children's books.



AP

This book cover image released by HarperCollins shows "Charlotte's Web," by E.B. White. HarperCollins announced Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2015, that "Charlotte's Web," "Stuart Little" and "The Trumpet of the Swan" can be purchased as e-books starting March 17.

Message of Appreciation

†Nicolas Baza Santos

On behalf of my children and myself, I would like to extend our praise and acceptance of the Will of our Lord God Almighty. May our loved one find solace and peace in the arms of our Savior and rejoice in his new life.

Words cannot adequately express our profound gratitude and sincere appreciation to all our friends and family for all the kind words of comfort and for taking the time to join us in the Celebration of the Eucharist in honor of our beloved †**Nicolas Baza Santos**. Your prayers, love, support and condolences have helped us tremendously during this most difficult time, giving us courage and strength to accept the will of God no matter how painful and difficult. Know that you are treasured in our hearts and will be remembered in our thoughts and prayers.

Thank you & Dangkulo na si Yu'us Ma'ase

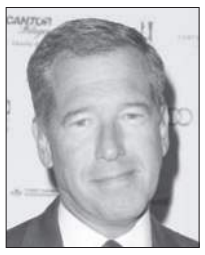
Hilaria K. Santos & Family

NBC's Brian Williams apologizes for false Iraq story

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC "Nightly News" anchor Brian Williams apologized Wednesday for incorrectly claiming as recently as last week that he rode on a helicopter that came under enemy fire when he was reporting in Iraq in 2003.

Instead, Williams said, he was in another helicopter trailing a Chinook that actually was hit. He apologized on "Nightly News" for getting it wrong.

The embarrassing admission came after a story in the Stars & Stripes newspaper pointing out the discrepancy. Williams had made the claim on the air last Friday during a story about Tim Terpak, an Army officer who he had befriended when Terpak was assigned to protect the NBC crew.


Williams

Williams reported on "Nightly News" that he had gone with Terpak to a New York Rangers hockey game. They were introduced to the audience by the public address announcer, who also repeated the claim that Williams' helicopter had been hit.

"This was a bungled attempt by me to thank one special veteran and by extension our brave military men and women, veterans everywhere, those who have served while I did not," Williams said on the air Wednesday. "I hope they know they have my greatest respect and also now my apology."

Stars & Stripes quoted Lance Reynolds, the flight engineer on the crew that rode with Williams, as saying that "it felt like a personal experience that someone else wanted to participate in and didn't deserve to participate in."

The newspaper said Williams' helicopter traveled about an hour behind the aircraft that actually took fire.

In a Facebook response to service members who had pointed out the mistake, Williams said that "I spent much of the weekend thinking I'd gone crazy."

NBC noted that a "Dateline NBC" story in 2003 correctly reported that Williams learned after his helicopter had landed that "the Chinook ahead of us was almost blown out of the sky." Williams said he also wrote about the incident correctly in 2008.

"Because I have no desire to fictionalize my experience ... and no need to dramatize events as they actually happened, I think the constant viewing of the video showing us inspecting the impact area—and the fog of memory over the years—made me conflate the two," Williams wrote.

Wal-Mart driver loses bid to delay Tracy Morgan crash suit

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—A federal judge has ruled against a Wal-Mart driver involved in a crash that killed a comic and severely injured actor-comedian Tracy Morgan and several others.

Morgan

Driver Kevin Roper had filed a motion to delay Morgan's lawsuit against Bentonville, Arkansas-based Wal-Mart stemming from the June 7 crash in New Jersey.

Roper faces several criminal charges in state court, including death by auto, but he hasn't been indicted yet. He's not a defendant in Morgan's federal lawsuit but wanted to intervene in that suit and delay it from moving forward until his criminal case could be resolved.

Roper, of Jonesboro, Georgia, said his right to a fair trial would be hampered and that he would, in effect, be on trial in the civil case even though he wasn't a defendant. He said prosecutors in the criminal case would benefit from information that was divulged.

On Tuesday, a judge ruled against Roper and allowed the lawsuit to proceed.

U.S. District Judge Michael Shipp wrote that a delay would unfairly affect the parties in Morgan's suit and that Roper didn't cite relevant case law to back up his claims or give specific examples of how he would be adversely affected. He did give Roper the option to file another motion if information or materials are requested from him for the lawsuit while his criminal case is unresolved.

Comedian James McNair was killed in the crash on the New Jersey Turnpike, while Morgan and two others were seriously injured. Wal-Mart reached a monetary settlement with McNair's two children two weeks ago; the amount hasn't been disclosed.

A preliminary investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board said Roper was driving 65 mph in the 60 seconds before he slammed into the van. The speed limit on that stretch of the New Jersey Turnpike is 55 mph and was lowered to 45 mph that night because of construction.

Bruce Jenner's mom opens up about his gender journey

NEW YORK (AP)—With speculation flying, Bruce Jenner's mother opened up Wednesday about his gender journey.

Esther Jenner, 88, has been besieged by calls from the media in recent days, but the widow in Lewiston, Idaho, isn't interested in fueling gossip. Instead, in a wide-ranging, nearly hour-long phone interview, she praised her Olympian son for his courage, stopping short of some details that have been floated by unnamed sources online and in tabloids.

Bruce Jenner, who won gold as a decathlete in the 1976 Summer Games, has not publicly spoken about transitioning to a woman. His appearance has gradually become more traditionally feminine. A publicist for the 65-year-old Jenner would not comment about his mother's remarks. Nor would E! Entertainment on word that Jenner will appear in a reality series about his journey.

AP

In this Sept. 11, 2013 file photo, former Olympic athlete Bruce Jenner arrives at the Annual Charity Day hosted by Cantor Fitzgerald and BGC Partners, in New York.

Highlights from Esther Jenner's conversation with The Associated Press:

AP: Have you spoken to Bruce recently about his transition?

Jenner: It was brief and I said I was proud of him and that I'll always love him. I never thought I could be more proud of Bruce when he reached his goal in 1976, but I'm more proud of him now. It takes a lot of courage to do what he's doing."

AP: He has opened up in terms of his gender identity, which he is now owning, as opposed to hiding like so many transgender people have to do? Is that right?

Jenner: That's absolutely right. He said, 'Mom, I'm still the same person.' He said, 'I'm still going to race cars, I'm still going to fly airplanes and I'm going to get my helicopter license.'

AP: How did it feel for him to come to you and explain?

Jenner: When I first learned about it, yes, of course it was a surprise.

AP: In a lot of cases, families really suffer from that kind of announcement.

Jenner: The family is close and very supportive of Bruce and we're supportive of each other.

AP: Was it a shock?

Jenner: It was a shock. It's hard to wrap your mind around it.

AP How did he explain it to you?

Jenner: He said, 'I want to be honest about my identity and I know this is coming out in the press.' He started by saying, 'We need to have a long, serious talk.' I am at peace with what he is and what he's doing.

Beck, Blige, Sia, ELO among Grammy performers

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Beck, Ed Sheeran, Sam Smith and the Electric Light Orchestra are among a new batch of performers added to the bill for Sunday's Grammy Awards.

The Grammys continue their signature of pairing artists for special one-time performances. Beck will take the stage with Coldplay's Chris Martin. Mary J. Blige will duet with Smith. Brandy Clark will perform with veteran country artist Dwight Yoakam.

Sheeran will take the stage with Herbie Hancock, John Mayer and Questlove of the Roots. Sheeran will also join ELO, recently reunited by its leader, Jeff Lynne.

Nominees Juanes, Sia and pianist Lang Lang will also perform on the show, which is being hosted again by rapper and actor LL Cool J.

The Grammys have previously announced several other performers, including Madonna, Kanye West and Paul McCartney.

Netflix coming to Japan this fall in service's Asia debut

LOS GATOS, Calif. (AP)—Netflix is expanding into Japan this fall, marking the first time that the Internet video service will be available in Asia.

The move announced late Wednesday marks another step toward reaching Netflix's goal to stream video on Internet-connected TVs, phones, tablets and computer throughout the world.

Netflix CEO Reed Hastings last month pledged to complete the company's international push by the end of next year.

The service already sells video subscriptions to a mix of original programming, movies and TV series in more than 50 countries. New Zealand and Australia are scheduled to join that list next month.

Netflix will open an office in Tokyo as part of its entry into Japan. The Los Gatos, California, company didn't specify what date in autumn that the Japanese service will debut.

Ignorance of dad's new life is bliss to his daughters

DEAR ABBY: I am a widower in my mid-80s and have met a lovely widow, "Diane," also in her 80s. What started as a "let's do lunch" friendship has developed into a close, affectionate relationship. Neither of us wants to take this to the next level, but we do want to spend as much time together as we can in the years left to us. We have a very active social life with friends and with Diane's family who live in the same town.

My daughters, who live in another city and rarely visit, profess to like her and say they are happy that I have someone in my life. But they have asked that I be sensitive to their feelings of loss for my late wife, who died four years ago. They don't want me to share what we do and where we go, which is hard when Diane is such a part of my life.

My problem is Diane and I want to spend a weekend in the city in which my children live to attend the theater. We will be sharing a hotel room. Do we tell them our plans and that we would like to see them while there, or not? Diane isn't comfortable going behind their backs, but she also doesn't want to cause a rift in my family. Neither do I. What would you advise?

UNCERTAIN IN MARYLAND

DEAR UNCERTAIN: Your daughters have told you they don't want you to share what you do with your lady friend and where you go, and I am advising you to abide by their wishes. If word should get back to them that you were in town and they ask about it, be honest and don't lie. And please, live every moment of your life to the fullest in the time God allows, and don't permit your family to diminish one minute of it.

DEAR ABBY: My older sister and I are very close to our "Aunt Lil." She has always jokingly told us we are "her children, too" because she never had any of her own and was active in our lives growing up.

Aunt Lil is in her late 60s and in declining health. Now single, she smokes two packs of cigarettes a day, but counts it only as one because they are slims. She also has high blood pressure, high cholesterol, etc.

The other day, while visiting with my mom, Aunt Lil started complaining about getting older and said how thankful she is to have my sister and me to take care of her when she's too old to take care of herself. The two of us gave each other the "Not me ... you!" look.

While we love her dearly, when the time comes, Aunt Lil will be off to a nursing home or have private home health care. Should we approach this with her now or wait and blindside her if/when it becomes an issue?

CAREFUL PLANNING IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CAREFUL PLANNING: Having been so close to you and your sister since you were children, I can understand why Aunt Lil might have expected some kindness in return. However, because the two of you aren't up to the task, she should be told now. It may provide an incentive for her to take better care of her health. Even if it doesn't, it may spur her to think about her assets and planning for her care or supervision should she need it in the future. Because you don't want the bother, suggest she involve another trusted family member or a social worker to watch out for her if she's no longer competent to manage her affairs.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

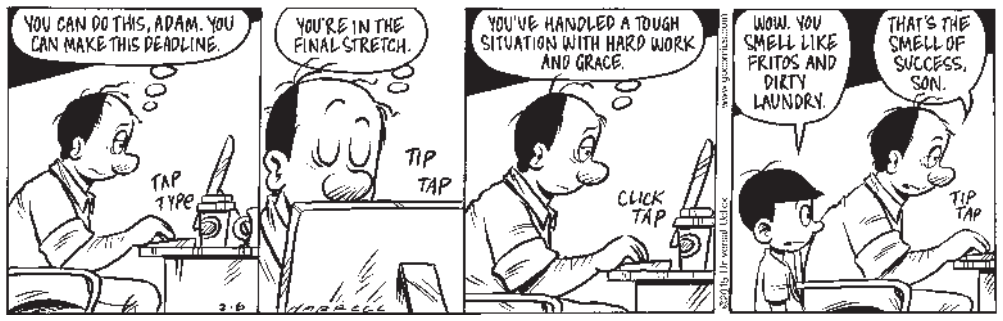
TIGER SPRAWLING IN THE SUN!
FAST ASLEEP, HIS DAY IS DONE.
LYING HERE, 'TWAS WARMTH HE SOUGHT.
THE SUN HAS MADE HIS TUMMY HOT.
ONE SAD FACT HE OVERLOOKED:
HIS BRAIN IS NOW COMPLETELY COOKED!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

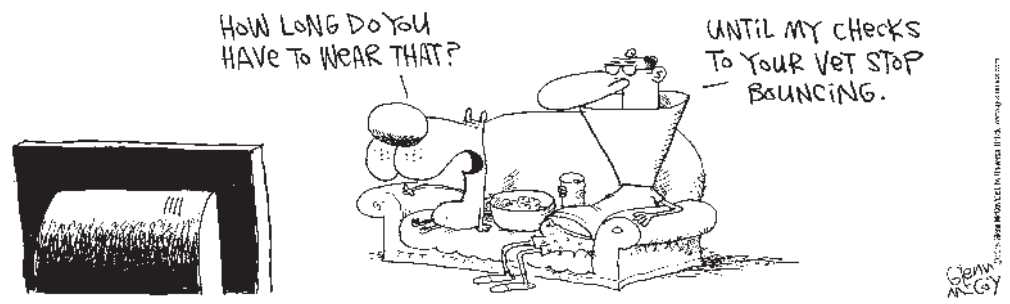
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


YOU CAN DO THIS, ADAM. YOU CAN MAKE THIS DEADLINE.
TAP TYPE
YOU'RE IN THE FINAL STRETCH.
TIP TAP
YOU'VE HANDLED A TOUGH SITUATION WITH HARD WORK AND GRACE.
CLICK TAP
WOW. YOU SMELL LIKE FRITOS AND DIRTY LAUNDRY.
THAT'S THE SMELL OF SUCCESS, SON.
TIP TAP

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

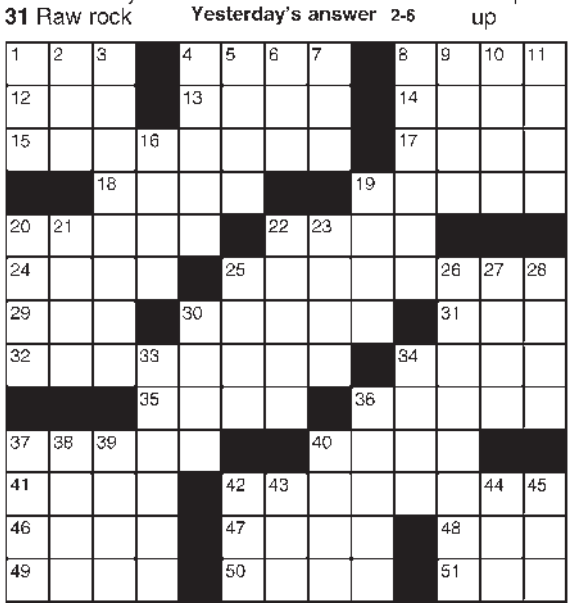
ACROSS
1 Piercing tool
4 Couple, in a gossip column
8 Depletes of strength
12 Miss Piggy's pronoun
13 "Finding —"
14 Earthenware pot
15 Clock part
17 Lunch hour
18 Heal
19 Alternative to glossy
20 Western resort lake
22 Revue segment
24 Jungfrau's range
25 Defense headquarters
29 Marseilles monarch
30 Specialized vocabulary
31 Raw rock
32 Proclivity
34 Make tea
35 Vacillate
36 Company emblems
37 Hardly snug
40 Foot part
41 Press
42 Wife of Odysseus
46 Anger
47 Acknowledge
48 Coffee shop vessel
49 Crazy
50 Playwright David
51 Turf

DOWN
1 Pump up the volume
2 Travail
3 Crucial component
4 Acclimatize
5 Far (Pref.)
6 Flightless bird
7 Oft-tattooed word
8 Beethoven piece
9 Greatly
10 Whodunit story line
11 Logical
16 Smothers Brothers and others
19 Barack's 2012 rival
20 Rainout coverup
21 Burn aid
22 Musical "repeat" symbol
23 Granny —
25 Implore
26 Ravishing
27 Sandwich treat
28 Information
30 "Hi, sailor!"
33 Young swan
34 Weevil's target
36 Lerner's collaborator
37 Charlie Parker's nickname
38 Met melody
39 Type of club
40 Uppity sort
42 Standard
43 Ms. Mendes
44 Expert
45 Wrap up

Solution time: 26 mins.

E	P		C		S	A	P		S	V	O	G
Z	E	T	A		A	W	L		C	U	B	A
R	E	E	L		Y	E	A		A	R	I	D
A	R	M		F	S		T	A	N	K		
			P	R	O	I	E	C	I	I	O	N
A	L	P	H	A		E	A	'		E	G	O
T	A	O	S		E	M	J		I	S	L	E
O	I	I		P	U	P		H	O	T	F	L
P	R	O	J	E	C	T		O	N			
		N		G	H		V	E	I	L	E	D
A	S		F		R	H	O		Z	E	R	O
P	O	J	F		E	A	R		E	V	I	L
B	J	S	Y		S	T	Y		S	I	N	E

Yesterday's answer 2-5



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rick Astley, 49; Kathy Najimy, 58; Natalie Cole, 65; Tom Brokaw, 75.

Happy Birthday: Show greater empathy toward others and you will get high returns. Don't let little aggravations turn into costly affairs or losses of friendship. A practical approach to partnerships and trying to understand what makes others tick will encourage a better future with plenty of room to develop future endeavors. Your numbers are 9, 13, 19, 25, 32, 35, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Re-evaluate what you have accomplished so far this year, and whether you are sticking to whatever resolutions or promises you made. Someone is likely to intervene with regard to a contract or money matter. Don't get emotional; get moving. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Set your goals and don't count on others to do things for you. Time spent with a loved one or socializing with friends will lift your spirits. Don't hold back; say what's on your mind and you will make a difference. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Taking action too quickly will lead to a mishap. Analyze every situation as it arises, and put decision-making on hold until you feel totally comfortable with the potential outcome. Someone you deal with might not be trustworthy. Do your own fact-finding. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Ask good friends and relatives for an opinion regarding a professional move or educational pursuit you are considering. Travel and research will lead you down an unexpected path that will bring back memories and inspire you. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Finish what you start and make the changes that will improve your life and your position. Follow whatever paths promise greater stability financially, emotionally or physically. Don't let emotions decide what's best for you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Remain calm, no matter how others react. Keep an open mind and offer a compassionate response, and you will get positive results. Accomplishment will result from being organized, understanding and positive in all that you do or say. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): The time has come to step up and make a difference to someone who is in dire need. Your selfless actions will impress someone who can alter your future, bringing you unexpected rewards. Think big and do what's right. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Hang in there and the pendulum will swing in your favor. Stick to your convictions and focus on what needs to be done, and you will bring about the changes that will improve your life. When it comes to your goals, stay on target. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Take precautions and keep your plans and ideas a secret for the time being. Someone close to you is not looking out for your best interests. Avoid troublemakers, and make changes that will make your life better. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Take what's yours and keep moving. Change may not be something you relish, but it will be in your best interests. A fair assessment of what you deserve will help you move toward the success and happiness you desire. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keep a close watch on others. Someone will take you for granted if you are too gullible. Take the time to re-evaluate your personal situation, and prepare to have a serious discussion about what you need to feel satisfied. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Put love, health and being your best at the top of your list. Don't allow anyone to put demands on you that will limit your freedom to pursue the people, places and things you enjoy the most. Live life according to your rules. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are inventive, loyal and steadfast. You are sensitive and practical.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

8			9					6
				7				
		1		8		2		
			5		2			8
	9	2				3	6	
7			6		4			
		8		2		9		
				6				
9					3			4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	2	8	1	5	7	6	4	3
3	5	7	8	4	6	1	9	2
4	1	6	9	2	3	5	7	8
7	8	9	3	1	2	4	6	5
5	6	2	7	9	4	8	3	1
1	3	4	6	8	5	7	2	9
2	7	1	4	3	8	9	5	6
8	4	5	2	6	9	3	1	7
6	9	3	5	7	1	2	8	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/05

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHALKBOARDS **Solution: 8 letters**

N	E	H	A	N	G	E	H	S	D	R	A	O	B	R
I	T	N	I	A	R	T	U	S	R	E	K	C	O	L
A	I	E	I	S	E	M	K	L	A	H	C	O	A	O
L	R	W	L	F	E	E	A	C	B	W	M	(N)	R	O
E	W	K	O	B	N	T	C	G	A	S	(A)	E	D	H
C	A	H	I	R	A	N	O	A	T	(L)	S	N	E	C
R	R	E	I	D	K	D	S	N	(P)	T	B	G	R	S
O	D	C	S	T	S	A	A	I	N	S	N	L	S	T
P	C	A	G	E	E	R	C	E	L	A	A	I	T	E
O	L	F	N	D	U	T	D	E	R	R	E	S	I	A
I	A	R	I	A	U	U	A	R	T	T	L	H	C	C
N	S	U	T	R	T	R	A	A	I	S	C	C	K	H
T	S	S	E	S	N	D	I	S	P	L	A	Y	S	E
E	E	S	E	R	U	T	C	E	L	E	S	U	E	R
R	S	E	M	A	R	F	P	R	O	J	E	C	T	S

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Arrange, Arts, Black, Blue, Boarders, Boards, Chalk, Classes, Clean, Display, Draw, English, Eraser, Fine, Frames, Green, Hang, Ideas, Kids, Learn, Lectures, Locker, Meetings, Notes, Pictures, Plan, Pointer, Porcelain, Projects, Readable, Restaurants, Reuse, Rooms, School, Space, Sticks, Students, Surface, Teachers, Train, Wash, White, Work, Write

Yesterday's Answer: Knee High

The **WONDERWORD MILLENNIUM SERIES #2** is here! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 100 puzzles.)

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8:00 am – 3:00 pm

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Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$600/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
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Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft
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***Wi-Fi & nighttime security exduded**

FEATURES:
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- At least two years' experience in hemodialysis and one year experience as a charge nurse in dialysis
- English language skills – proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Flexible with time schedule

Interested applicants must submit a resume or pick up an application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be on 02/11/2015 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call our HR Office at (670) 234-2903 ext. 128.

SUNSHINE 100 RESORT DEV'T. CO., LTD.
is inviting individuals to apply for the following positions:

General Manager Assistant

Bachelor's degree in architecture, urban planning, or construction. At least 6 years work related experience with no less than 4 years experience in managerial or higher level position in project management, preferably in property development industry, urban planning or construction. Must have experience in real estate development, project initial planning through completion, construction planning and management including strategic planning and project analysis. Must have experience in the preparation of real-estate market reports as well as feasibility report. Requires excellent multi-tasking, organizational, interpersonal and leadership skills. Must have expertise in Word, Excel, Power Point and CAD.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at SUNSHINE 100 RESORT DEV'T. CO., LTD. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, February 20, 2015.

SUNSHINE 100 RESORT DEV'T. CO., LTD. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

CLICK IT OR TICKET DAY & NIGHT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

BEST SUNSHINE INTERNATIONAL

Best Sunshine is committed to develop Saipan's first Integrated Resort, which includes hotels, retail shops, restaurants, spa & wellness, health & aesthetics tourism, conference, casino and themed entertainment. We invite interested professionals to apply for the following position.

CONSTRUCTION FINANCE AND FORECASTING SPECIALIST

Job Responsibilities:
- Arrange for financing of materials and supplies for a multi-billion dollar project.
- Consult with vendors, engineers, architects, owners, contractors and subcontractors to discuss and formulate materials and supplies estimates.
- Prepare estimates for use in selecting vendors or subcontractors.
- Confer with engineers, architects, owners, contractors and subcontractors on changes and adjustments to cost estimates.
- Prepare estimates used by executive management for purposes such as planning, organizing and scheduling work.
- Ensure the timely provision of capital for all activities on the projects.
- Provide input into project establishment and set up as required.

Minimum Requirements:
- 5 years of experience in the construction industry.
- 5 years of experience in the finance industry.

Salary is commensurate with experience and education. Please email your complete detailed resume to hr@bestsunshineint.com. Background check may be required before employment.

Thank you, Si Yu'os Ma'ase, and Olomwaay for your interest in Best Sunshine!

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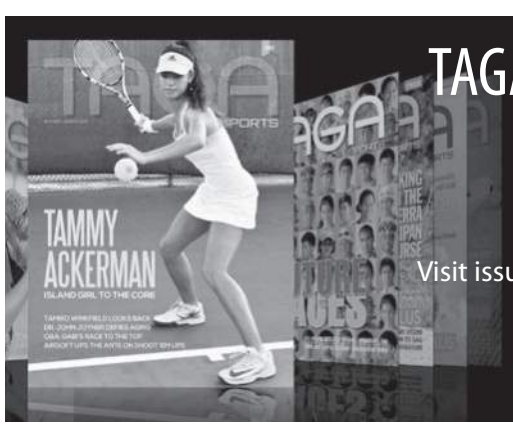

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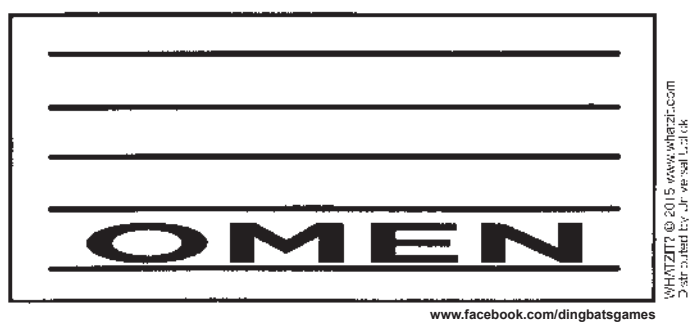

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Curry scores 51, Warriors rally from 22 down to stun Mavs

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Stephen Curry scored a season-high 51 points and made a season-best 10 3-pointers, rallying the Golden State Warriors from an early 22-point deficit to down the Dallas Mavericks 128-114 on Wednesday night.

Curry connected on 10 of 16 shots from beyond the arc and 16 of 26 overall. The All-Star point guard and MVP candidate put on a dazzling dribbling display to match his streaky shooting stroke, helping the NBA-leading Warriors (39-8) complete their biggest comeback of the season in front of a roaring sellout crowd of 19,596.

Chandler Parsons scored 24 points, and Tyson Chandler had 21 points and 17 rebounds in a disappointing defeat for Dallas, which played without injured point guard Rajon Rondo again. The Mavericks led 40-18 in the first quarter before Curry carried Golden State back.

The Warriors improved to a league-best 23-2 at home.

Curry finished just shy of his 54-point masterpiece at Madison Square Garden on Feb. 27, 2013. He made a career-high 11 3-pointers in that game, a 109-105 loss to the Knicks, but could savor a home victory this time.

Curry scored 41 points on nine 3-pointers to give Golden State a 101-98 lead through three quarters. The Warriors stretched that margin to 112-101 early in the fourth with Curry on the bench, then called him back when the Mavericks moved within seven.

The quick-footed guard guided the Warriors in the right direction, and put the game out of reach when he ran down an errant pass by Devin Harris in the backcourt and drew a foul on Dirk Nowitzki while going for a layup. Curry made both free throws, then hit another pair the next time down to give Golden State a 124-113 lead with 1:35 remaining.

Curry capped his big night with a step-back 3-pointer in the final minute, setting off chants of "M-V-P! M-V-P!" throughout the building.

His hot-shooting performance only highlighted an impressive display by the Warriors, who hit 19 of 38 shots from 3-point range. The Mavericks made 10 of 30 from beyond the arc.

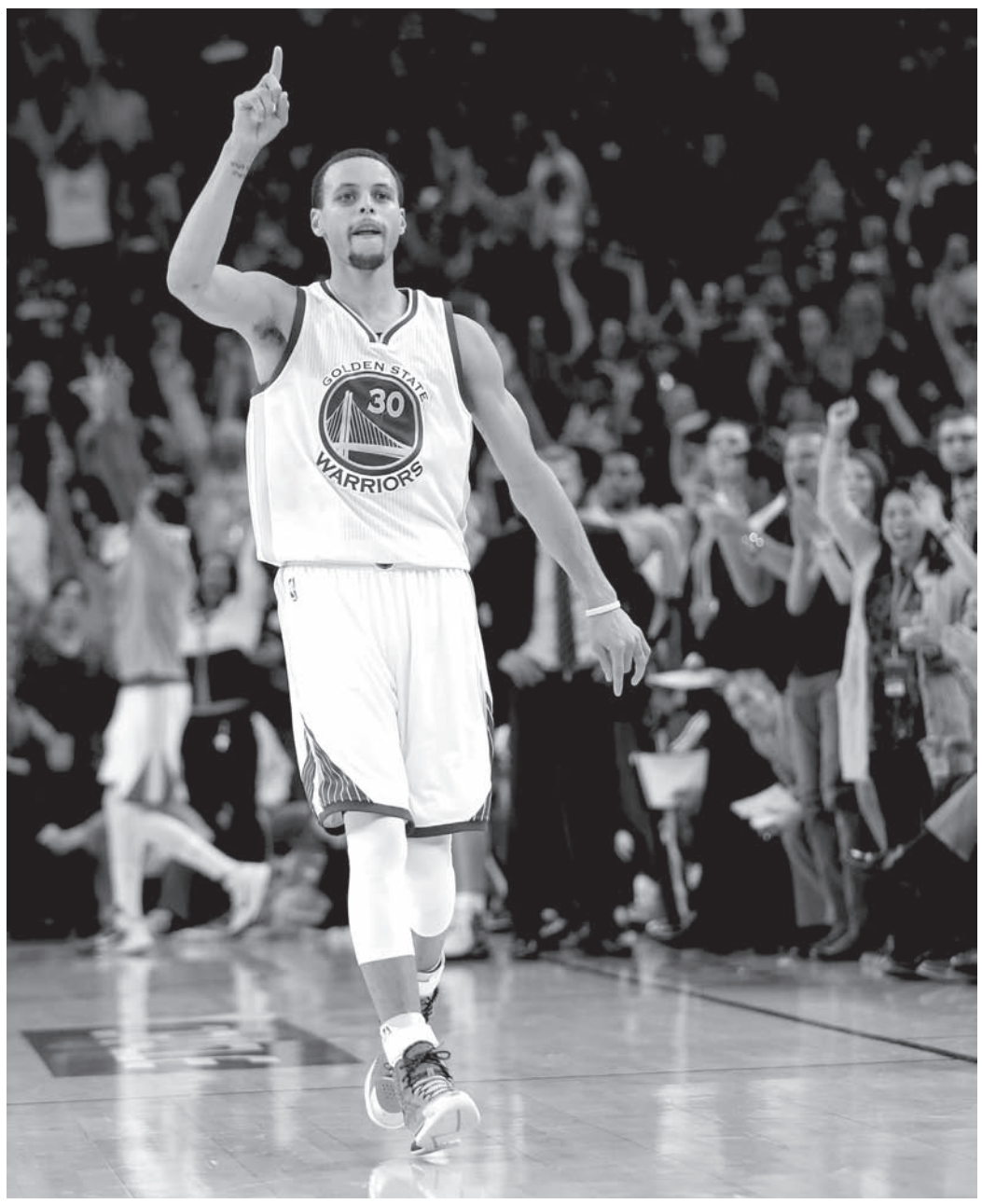
Klay Thompson had 18 points, and reserves Marreese Speights and Leandro Barbosa scored 14 each as the Warriors won their third straight game. They begin a stretch of 10 of 11 on the road Friday night at East-leading Atlanta.

The Mavericks (33-18) had won three in a row and looked poised at the outset to extend their streak in the NBA's toughest venue for visiting teams.

With Chandler gobbling up rebounds and shooters all over the floor, Dallas took advantage of the Warriors inside and out at the start. The Mavericks went ahead 24-4 in a little more than six minutes, stretched their lead to 22 and held on for a 42-25 advantage at the end of the first quarter.

It was the most points the Warriors had allowed in any quarter this season.

Golden State answered with an equally impressive second quarter, opening with a 15-2 run bolstered by the bench. The Warriors trimmed Dallas' lead to 62-58 at halftime and went ahead early in the third quarter, with Curry creating his own shots and bringing fans screaming out of their seats after every swish.



AP

Golden State Warriors' Stephen Curry celebrates after making a 3-point basket against the Dallas Mavericks during the second half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2015, in Oakland, Calif.

SIDEBAR

All 5 Hawks starters named players of month for January

ATLANTA (AP)—The Atlanta Hawks were rewarded for the first 17-0 month in NBA history with another first on Wednesday—all five starters were selected Eastern Conference players of the month for January.

All-Stars Paul Millsap, Jeff Teague and Al Horford were honored by the league, along with the other starters, Kyle Korver and DeMarre Carroll. They all averaged in double figures for the month but none were at 20 points per game, showing the balance that has marked the team's surprising rise.

The Hawks won a franchise-record 19 in a row until a loss at New Orleans on Monday night. Still, they have a comfortable lead in the East and went into their game against the Washington Wizards just percentage points behind Golden State for the best overall record.

Houston's James Harden was chosen Western Conference player of the month. He averaged 25.8 points a game in January, along with 6.7 assists and 2.2 steals while shooting 42.6 percent from 3-point range.

The Hawks said it's the first time in NBA history that all five starters from one team were named players of the month. Atlanta outscored its opponents by an average of 11.9 points a game in January.

"It's definitely fun," Millsap said. "Especially when, as a team, everybody's contributing. When everybody's contributing, everybody's happy."

Millsap led the team in scoring for the month (18.3 points per game), followed by Horford (17.1), Teague (16.6), Korver (13.4) and Carroll (12.3). Millsap paced the Hawks in rebounding (8.0), Teague was the leader in assists (8.5) and steals (1.8), Horford ranked first in blocks (1.4) and Korver was the top 3-point shooter (56.7 percent).

"We appreciate the recognition of our starters' play during this past month. It is reflective of all the work our entire team and organization has put in," said coach Mike Budenholzer, who will lead the East in the All-Star Game. "We place a strong emphasis on having the right approach every day and making daily improvement. Collectively, we know that we have a lot more work to do this season and look forward to continue growing as a team."

Hawks 105, Wizards 96

In Atlanta, Jeff Teague scored 26 points, Al Horford added 21 and the Atlanta Hawks rebounded from their first loss in more than a month.

The East-leading Hawks were coming off a 115-100 loss at New Orleans that snapped their franchise-record, 19-game winning streak. They made sure it didn't turn into a different kind of streak, overcoming a dismal third quarter to beat the Wizards for the third straight time this season.

Teague finished off the Wizards with a drive to the basket, laying the ball in despite getting bounced to the floor by Marcin Gortat. Teague sank the free throw to complete the three-point play, giving Atlanta a 103-92 lead with 1:54 remaining.

John Wall had 24 points and Bradley Beal 23, but it wasn't enough to keep Washington from its season-high fourth consecutive loss.

Thunder 102, Pelicans 91

In New Orleans, Russell Westbrook tied his career high with 45 points and Oklahoma City overcame Kevin Durant's absence to beat New Orleans.

Westbrook had 25 first-half points, including a career best for a quarter with 19 in the first.

Durant sat out for the fourth time in five games because if a left big toe injury.

Anthony Davis led New Orleans with 23 points and eight rebounds.

The teams will meet again Friday night in Oklahoma City.

Timberwolves 102, Heat 101

In Minneapolis, Kevin Martin scored 30 points and Minnesota overcame another monster game from Hassan Whiteside to beat Miami.

Thaddeus Young had 16 points and five steals, Ricky Rubio added eight points and nine assists in his first home game since Nov. 1, and the Timberwolves erased a 10-point deficit in the fourth quarter.

Whiteside scored a career-high 24 points, grabbed 20 rebounds and set a Heat record by making his first 11 shots. He finished 12 of 13.

Luol Deng added 18 points, but Norris Cole missed an open 3-pointer in the closing moments, allowing the Wolves to escape. Dwyane Wade missed his fourth straight game with a strained right hamstring for the Heat, and coach Erik Spoelstra said the star guard will not play Friday at San Antonio.

Bucks 113, Lakers 105, OT

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored a career-high 25 points, Brandon Knight had 24 and Milwaukee outlasted Los Angeles for its fifth consecutive victory.

Knight, who returned to the lineup after missing Monday's game in Toronto with a quadriceps injury, scored 12 points in overtime. Khris Middleton and O.J. Mayo added 21 points apiece for Milwaukee.

Carlos Boozer had 28 points for the Lakers, who lost for the 11th time in 12 games—including eight in a row on the road. Ed Davis had 20 rebounds for Los Angeles.

Nets 109, Raptors 93

In Toronto, Jarrett Jack scored 24 points, Alan Anderson had 22 and Brooklyn handed Toronto its first loss in 10 games against Atlantic Division opponents this season.

Playing for the second time since missing 11 games with a rib injury, Deron Williams scored 11 points in 33 minutes to help Brooklyn avoid its first four-game road losing streak since December 2013.

Terrence Ross scored 23 points for Toronto. The Raptors dropped their second in a row after winning the previous six.

Pacers 114, Pistons 109

In Indianapolis, George Hill had 20 points and six assists in his return to Indiana's starting lineup, helping the Pacers beat Detroit.

Hill made just his fourth start of the season, and first in six games after being sidelined by a strained left groin. Slowed by a knee injury, he has been limited to 11 games.

Roy Hibbert had 16 points and 12 rebounds for Indiana.

Andre Drummond had 18 points and 16 rebounds for Detroit.

Rockets 101, Bulls 90

In Houston, James Harden had 27 points in Houston's victory over Chicago.

Harden scored 15 points in the second quarter to help the Rockets build a lead that the Bulls were unable to overcome. The Rockets have won five of six.

Derrick Rose scored 23 points, playing in his 12th consecutive game for the first time since the 2010-11 season.

Spurs 110, Magic 103

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan had 26 points and 10 rebounds and San Antonio sent Orlando to its 10th straight loss.

Kawhi Leonard scored 18 points and Tony Parker had 15 to help the Spurs beat Orlando for the seventh time in a row.

Nikola Vucevic had 25 points and 12 rebounds for Orlando, and Tobias Harris added 23 points and 10 rebounds.

Grizzlies 100, Jazz 90

In Salt Lake City, Zach Randolph had 18 points and 11 rebounds to lead Memphis past Utah for the Grizzlies' eighth straight victory.

Marc Gasol had 23 points, and Mike Conley added 17.

Trey Burke led the Jazz with 21 points, and Enes Kanter had 16 points and 10 rebounds.

Celtics 104, Nuggets 100

In Boston, enched at the start for showing up late to the shootaround, Jared Sullinger made two free throws with 22.8 seconds left to break a tie in Boston's victory over Denver.

Coach Brad Stevens kept Sullinger out of the lineup for the second straight home game after the forward was late for the afternoon shootaround. On Sunday, he was late for a walkthrough.

Sullinger wound up scoring 14 points. Avery Bradley and Marcus Thornton each scored 17 points for Boston. Ty Lawson led the Nuggets with 23 points and eight assists.

Browns quarterback Johnny Manziel enters treatment

AP

In this Monday, Dec. 29, 2014, file photo, Cleveland Browns quarterback Johnny Manziel talks with the media at the NFL football team's training camp, in Berea, Ohio.

CLEVELAND (AP)—Johnny Manziel has sought help to change his off-field lifestyle.

Following a rough rookie season in the NFL, Manziel has entered a treatment program for unspecified reasons, an adviser for the Browns quarterback said in a statement released by the team on Monday.

"Johnny knows there are areas he needs to improve on to help him be a better family member, friend and teammate, so he decided to take this step in his life during the offseason," Manziel adviser Brad Beckworth said. Beckworth said the former Heisman Trophy winner entered the unnamed facility last week. He said Manziel's family is asking for privacy until he rejoins the team.

Beckworth's statement did not indicate reasons for Manziel needing treatment. However, the 22-year-old QB's penchant for partying followed him from college into the pros and Manziel's nightlife has been well-chronicled by both social and mainstream media.

The location of the facility where Manziel is staying is not immediately known.

Browns general manager Ray Farmer said in a statement that the team fully supports Manziel and respects his initiative in entering treatment. The team will respect Manziel's privacy during treatment, he said.

"Our players' health and well-being will always be of the utmost importance to the Cleveland Browns," Farmer said. "We continually strive to create a supportive environment and provide the appropriate resources, with our foremost focus being on the individual and not just the football player."

Citing privacy laws, a Browns spokesman declined to provide any further information about Manziel's situation.

Browns wide receiver Andrew Hawkins offered his support to Manziel on Twitter.

"Much love and support to my brother Johnny," Hawkins wrote. "Proud of him, big step. Football is secondary. God Bless!"

NBA superstar LeBron James, who is both a friend and business partner of Manziel's, also expressed his support for the young QB.

"I haven't talked to him," James said after the Cavaliers won their 11th straight game. "As a friend I support him. I want him to get better. As friends and family we all believe in him and this is a good step if this is the route he's going to take."

Manziel, who won the Heisman as a freshman at Texas A&M where his playmaking skills earned him his "Johnny Football" nickname, has faced questions for several years about his active nightlife. After he was drafted in May by the Browns in the first round, Manziel was repeatedly photographed drinking alcohol during weekend trips to Las Vegas. A photograph of Manziel floating on an inflatable swan raft swigging a bottle of champagne went viral.

The Browns became increasingly concerned about Manziel when a photo surfaced of Manziel holding a rolled bill in a bathroom.

Manziel often dismissed criticism about his behavior, insisting he wasn't going to let others dictate to him how to live his life. However, following the season, Manziel seemed embarrassed by some of his choices and vowed to change his ways.

"It's about actions," he somberly told reporters on Dec. 29. "It's about being accountable and doing what I'm going to say. ... I'm either going to learn or I'm going to be finding something else to do."

Manziel's alma mater released a statement offering its support, stating "Johnny will always be an Aggie, and we wish him well in another step in his journey."

Manziel spent the majority of last season as starter Brian Hoyer's backup before coach Mike Pettine switched their roles with the team still in the playoff hunt.

Manziel made his first start on Dec. 14 against Cincinnati, but failed miserably. He appeared unprepared and overmatched as the Bengals defense harassed him into two interceptions and the Browns were throttled 30-0. Manziel completed 10 of 18 passes for 80 yards, was sacked twice and looked nothing like a player capable of ending Cleveland's long search to find a franchise quarterback.

The next week at Carolina, Manziel injured his hamstring on a running play before halftime and was replaced by Hoyer.

Manziel was then fined by the Browns for missing a medical treatment before the season finale at Baltimore. Manziel promised he would change following the season, apologizing to Cleveland's fans and his teammates for being a distraction.

But hours after apologizing, he was photographed in Miami Beach and over the next few days there were photos of him on Instagram in a Houston nightclub and in Aspen, Colorado.

The Browns have made it clear to Manziel that they expect more from him if he wants to be their leader.

"Johnny has to show on and off the field he can be a professional," owner Jimmy Haslam said on Jan. 22. "He knows that. Everybody in the organization has told him that. He knows what we expect of him on and off the field and it's up to him to prove he can do that."

Manziel's uncertain future could influence the Browns' plans at quarterback. Hoyer is scheduled to become a free agent, but the Cleveland native may be willing to re-sign with Cleveland, especially if Manziel is not in the picture. The Browns also have two first-round picks (Nos. 12 and 19) in this year's draft and may be willing to use them to land a quarterback.

NFL BRIEFS

Seattle's Chancellor played Super Bowl with torn MCL

RENTON, Wash. (AP)—Seattle Seahawks strong safety Kam Chancellor played in the Super Bowl with a torn medial collateral ligament in his left knee, according to the team's website. In a story on Seahawks.com posted Wednesday, Chancellor said two days before the loss to New England he was told he wasn't going to play. Chancellor collided knees with a teammate in practice the Friday before the game and suffered a deep bone bruise. During the examination, the torn MCL was revealed, Chancellor said in the story. "There are some people that get injured and can't even play this game, can't even play a game. So you've got to be grateful for how you're feeling at the moment," Chancellor said. "Shoot, my injury happened two days before the game and they told me I wasn't going to be able to play. They told me, torn MCL and bone bruise.' I was mad. I was frustrated. But at the end of the day, I was able to play." Chancellor was briefly in the Seahawks locker room on Tuesday during locker cleanout, but a team employee said he would not be speaking to the media. Seattle coach Pete Carroll was asked about Chancellor's injury on Monday but did not get into specifics about a torn ligament. Carroll said it was a "superhuman thing," for Chancellor to play.

Rex Ryan updates tattoo from Jets green to Bills blue

NEW YORK (AP)—Rex Ryan's tattooed right arm went from Jets green to Bills blue. The recently hired Buffalo coach had the tattoo on his biceps updated to his new team's colors at a parlor in Scottsdale, Arizona, last Friday. The Wall Street Journal reported Monday that Ryan, in town before the Super Bowl, has ditched all of his old New York Jets apparel and needed to freshen up his body art. "I mean, you've got to turn the page," Ryan told the newspaper. So, he had the image of his wife in a Jets jersey—the original No. 6 was previously colored over in green—changed to a Bills jersey. "I'm all in," Ryan said. Ryan was fired by the Jets in December after six years in New York, and hired by Buffalo two weeks later.

Packers defensive lineman Letroy Guion arrested in Florida

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Authorities said Wednesday that Green Bay Packers defensive tackle Letroy Guion had been arrested in Florida on felony charges of drug and firearm possession after a traffic stop turned up three-quarters of a pound of marijuana, a 9mm handgun and a bag containing more than $190,000 in cash.

Guion, 27, was arrested on Tuesday night during a traffic stop in his hometown of Starke, Florida. Police said that the lineman "became extremely uncooperative and hostile" during the stop and wound up being handcuffed to protect the officers.

Guion was released from Bradford County jail on Wednesday on $100,000 bail.

"We are aware of a serious matter involving Letroy Guion. We have not yet spoken to Letroy and we will have no further comment," the Packers said in a statement. Guion's agent, Seth Katz, declined comment and referred inquiries to the team.

Green Bay signed Guion to a one-year deal as a free agent last offseason. Finishing with 3 1/2 sacks, Guion turned into a key cog on the defensive line and filled a hole up front after veteran B.J. Raji was lost for the year in the preseason with a biceps injury.

Now Guion's future is murky with one of the league's model franchises.

According a police statement, Guion asked the officer who pulled him over "if he knew who he was."

During the search of the truck, Guion "kept coming towards the vehicle several times" and asked officers not to take his money, police said. Guion had to be handcuffed after rushing the driver's side of the truck to try to remove the "bag pack" on the front seat containing the marijuana and money, police said.

According to authorities, Guion said his 9mm semi-automatic handgun was registered. But in Florida, having a firearm is considered a felony if it is in that person's possession while committing another alleged felony.

Authorities said the bag contained more than $190,000 cash as well as 357 grams of marijuana. Possession of more than 20 grams of marijuana in Florida is considered a felony.

Pacific Games tryouts' 3rd round tomorrow

Ed Peter is once again inviting all Saipan golfers to join tomorrow's third round of the CNMI Men's National Golf Team open tryouts at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Registration on Saturday starts at 10am and tee off is set one hour after. This will be the final day at COP while the last two rounds—Feb. 14 and 21—will be held at Kingfisher Golflinks with the same times.

Peter said the tryout is open to all golfers whether you're a member of any of the local golf associations on Saipan—Refaluwasch Golf Association, Marianas Golf Association, Saipan Gofers Association or FilTaga.

"Everyone is invited whether you're RGA, SGA, MGA or FilTaga. Even if you're not going to tryout, you can still play to show your support to the team that's being formed," said Peter.

He again called out all RGA members to also come out and play a round of golf.

J.J. Atalig topped two of the first five rounds of tryouts, which follows a gross play format for 18 rounds, to become one of the early favorites of securing a spot on the CNMI Men's National Golf Team.

The Top 12 golfers after the five rounds will qualify in the next stage where they will play another five rounds. The Top 5 golfers, including one alternate, after the final qualifying stage will make up Team CNMI and represent the Commonwealth in the 2015 Pacific Games.

Peter is also thankful for the monetary pledge that MGA made. MGA will be donating to the CNMI men's golf team.

"All money to be collected will be used on the team's trip to the Pacific Games. MGA's pledge to the fund will be a big help for the team," added Peter, who is hoping to coach the team to the 2015 Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea from July 4 to 18.

The Royal Port Moresby Golf Club in the National Capital District will be hosting the four-day golf tournament in the 15th edition of the quadrennial sporting event will. Teams will also have a two-day practice round before the actual competition.

Teams will fight for 12 medals at stake in the men's and women's singles and the men's and women's team events.

In the last three rounds, participants will only pay the green fee and an additional $20 for Team CNMI's fund to the Pacific Games.

For more information, call Peter at 288-7482 or 788-7664. ***(Jon Perez)***

UFC says ex-champ Anderson Silva tests positive for steroids

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former UFC middleweight champion Anderson Silva has tested positive for steroid use.

Silva, the 39-year-old Brazilian widely considered the greatest mixed martial artist in the young sport's history, tested positive for Drostanolone metabolites and another steroid in an out-of-competition test Jan. 9.

Nick Diaz, his opponent at UFC 183 last Saturday, also tested positive for elevated levels of marijuana metabolites in results released Tuesday night by the Nevada Athletic Commission.

The UFC said the commission is doing further testing to confirm the results, but the stunning announcement casts a large shadow over Silva's impressive comeback from a badly broken leg last Saturday for a unanimous-decision victory over Diaz.

In a brief statement, the UFC said it was "disappointed to learn of these initial results."

"Anderson Silva has been an amazing champion and a true ambassador of the sport of mixed martial arts and the UFC, in Brazil as well as around the world," the UFC's statement added. "The UFC has a strict, consistent policy against the use of any illegal and/or performance-enhancing drugs, stimulants or masking agents by its athletes."

Silva (34-6) beat Diaz by a wide decision last weekend in Las Vegas, winning every round on two of the three judges' scorecards. The fight was a triumphant return to the cage for Silva, who broke his lower left leg 13 months ago.

AP

Middleweight Anderson Silva cools off while awarded the decision over Nick Diaz following their fight at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2015.

UFC President Dana White is among those who have proclaimed Silva to be the sport's greatest fighter. He won 10 consecutive title defenses over seven years as the UFC's 185-pound champion, most of them showcasing his incredible athleticism and striking skills, until losing the belt to Chris Weidman in July 2013 and breaking his leg in their rematch.

Yahoo Sports first reported Silva's failed test and Diaz's latest failed marijuana test. Silva and Diaz will face a disciplinary hearing before the Nevada commission on Feb. 17, and their licenses to fight likely will be suspended.

Silva has never publicly failed a drug test in his MMA career, but could face a nine-month suspension for a first offense.

Diaz tested positive for marijuana use twice already in his career, in 2007 and 2012, and could face a lengthy suspension. He returned from a self-imposed 22-month absence to take on Silva for a lucrative payday.

In another statement, the UFC said it will "fully respect" the Nevada commission's suspension decision, noting that Diaz has violated the UFC's fighter conduct policy and his promotional agreement.

Silva's manager, Ed Soares, didn't immediately return a request for comment.

Immediately after his victory last weekend, Silva said he hadn't decided whether to retire from the sport. He planned to consult with his wife and five children before determining his future.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Rotary McFun Run Feb. 21

Rotary Club of Saipan and McDonald's will hold the 1025 Rotary McFun Run on Feb. 21. The event has two courses, 5K and 10K. Both races will start at Micro Beach with the shorter one having a turnaround at 13 Fishermen Monument and the longer course at Char's Mart near the old Hakubotan Duty Free. Registration starts at 5:30am, while the race kicks off at 6:15am. Registration is $10 per student (17-and- under) and $15 per adult. Participants will get free shirts, refreshments, and raffle prizes. Awards will also be given to top finishers. Registration forms are now available at McDonald's Garapan and Middle Road. Proceeds from the event will go to Rotary's plan of putting up a family park in Kagman. ***(PR)***

Softball fundraiser meeting Feb. 12

A softball tournament will be held from Feb. 13 to 15 at the Capital Hill Ballfield. Interested teams are requested to attend a 6pm meeting on Feb. 12 at the beach house at the back of McDonald's Garapan. The event is co-ed and will implement a double-round robin format. Organizers are looking at 12 teams. Entrance fee is only $150. For more information, contact Larry Olouachel at 287-1431 or Liz Palacios at 287-8869. ***(PR)***

FALCONS

From Page 32

passed ball. Alex Benavente's two-RBI single capped off the inning.

Jones then came on the mound and struck out Chad Atalig, Nick Cruz, and Wally Emul to seal the Falcons' win.

Benavente went 3-for-6 with four RBIs while Haini Blas batted 2-for-6 with two runs, a double and two RBIs. Peter Lieto scored twice and had a double in 2-for-6 at bat.

Tony Benavente lasted five innings for the Falcons giving up six runs, three earned, on eight hits, while walking three and fanning six. Aaron Benavente pitched two innings in relief and was tagged with four runs on five hits with two walks and one strikeout.

Chad Atalig went 4-for-6 for the North Starz but was stranded on base most of the time. Ricardo Dela Cruz, who was hit by pitch twice, scored three runs on a 1-for-4 batting.

Games today will have the IP&E Fielders taking on the Yankees, who will face the Falcons on Monday, Feb. 9. Both matches start at 7pm at the Tan Ko ballfield.

SOUTHERN

From Page 32

MHS made short work of Mt. Carmel School, 25-12, 25-14, in another all JV match with the former hiking its record to 5-1, while the latter dropped to 2-3.

Grace Christian Academy and Mt. Carmel defeated their respective foes in contrasting fashion in the varsity division.

GCA had an easy 25-10, 25-15 decision over Kagman with the Lady Eagles notching their sixth win in nine matches.

The Lady Ayuyus dropped their fifth straight match and eighth overall. They haven't won since beating still winless Southern Varsity last Jan. 15.

MCS, meanwhile, grinded out a 22-25, 25-20, 17-15 decision against Saipan International School.

MCS tied GCA (6-3) behind the unbeaten 8-0 slate of MHS varsity, while SIS dropped to 5-4.

Games were still being played in the JV division at press time with Southern taking on SIS, while Kagman was facing Mt. Carmel in its first match before clashing with MHS in the next contest. Mt. Carmel also played twice when it collided with SIS in the final match.

4 TEAMS

From Page 32

a span of two minutes—74th and 76th.

Ruselle Zapanta and Mii Tekopua nailed the two other goals for Tan Holdings FC with the former breaking the ice in the 12th minute and the latter scoring late in the first half. Tanapon Unsa earned the only goal for Wild Bill's in the second half.

Meanwhile, the two of the three Division 2 matches in Week 1 ended in draws.

In last Sunday's final match, Kanoa Football Club and the Thundercats engaged in a 2-2 draw.

Joshua De Leon registered both goals for Kanoa with his shot two minutes before the game wrapped up forcing the deadlock. De Leon hit his first goal in the 41st minute. Timothy Tawanpiy duplicated De Leon's feat, scoring the Thundercats' pair of goals in the second half (61st and 79th).

The Shirley's Football Club-World Resort tiff last Wednesday also concluded in a standoff, 2-2.

NMIFA president Jerry Tan saved Shirley's from a loss after scoring the equalizer in the 66th minute. Fradel Sedillo nailed the other goal for Shirley's, while Hoin Ryu and Daniel Agulto scored for World Resort in the first and second half, respectively.

In the other Division 1 game, Matansa downed the CNMI Women's National Team, 4-1. Tej Gurung, Titu Ahmed, Amzad Khan, and Shashanewaz Luvlu scored in Matansa's season-debut win.

Action in the spring season continues this Sunday with five matches set for this weekend and one each on Wednesday and Thursday.

The pairing for Sunday are as follows: Paire vs Wild Bill's at 12pm; Tan Holdings vs KFAS at 2pm; MP United vs Inter Godfather's at 4pm; Matansa vs Kanoa at 6pm; and Sun Palace vs World Resort at 8pm. On Wednesday, CNMI Women's National Team will take on Shirley's FC at 7pm, while the Thundercats challenge Sun Palace on Thursday at the same time.

League organizers will squeeze in one more game per week, starting next week to go ahead of schedule as the Olea pitch is scheduled to undergo resurfacing this year. NMIFA is also looking into alternate venues for the matches.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	33	17	.660	—
Brooklyn	20	28	.417	12
Boston	18	30	.375	14
Philadelphia	11	39	.220	22
New York	10	39	.204	22½
Southeast Division				
Atlanta	41	9	.820	—
Washington	31	19	.620	10
Charlotte	21	27	.438	19
Miami	21	28	.429	19½
Orlando	15	37	.288	27
Central Division				
Cleveland	30	20	.600	—
Chicago	30	20	.600	—
Milwaukee	27	22	.551	2½
Detroit	19	31	.380	11
Indiana	18	32	.360	12

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	37	12	.755	—
Houston	34	15	.694	3
Dallas	33	18	.647	5
San Antonio	31	18	.633	6
New Orleans	26	23	.531	11
Northwest Division				
Portland	33	16	.673	—
Oklahoma City	25	24	.510	8
Denver	19	31	.380	14½
Utah	17	32	.347	16
Minnesota	9	40	.184	24
Pacific Division				
Golden State	39	8	.830	—
L.A. Clippers	33	16	.673	7
Phoenix	28	22	.560	12½
Sacramento	17	30	.362	22
L.A. Lakers	13	36	.265	27

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blue Haus takes early lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Blue Haus took the early lead in the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League after pounding Armatech, 88-72, last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Blue Haus improved its record to 2-0 to lead Armatech (1-1), Saipan Warriors (1-1), Bammy's Restaurant (1-1), KB Hite (1-), Boomers (0-1), and Slashers (0-1).

Five Blue Haus players finished in double figures as they dominated Armatech right from the get-go. Blue Haus led by a baker's zone after the first period, 23-10, and never lost the twin-digit advantage in the remaining three quarters, outgunning Armatech from outside and making several fastbreak baskets all night.

Tony Diaz led Blue Haus with his 18 points, ending the first period with a triple to lift the team to a 13-point lead and then kicking off the second frame with another basket from downtown. By the end of the second canto, Blue Haus stretched its lead to 15, 45-30, as Diaz's other teammates also began to contribute.

Blue Haus went on to pad its advantage to as much as 24 points in the fourth quarter, 79-54, before letting its guard down midway in the final canto, allowing Armatech to get garbage-time points.

Edwin Santos and Ernie Moises backed up Diaz as they chipped in 12 markers apiece, while Edsel Mendoza and Junar Guiab added 11 each. Matt Buenabajo, Roger Valencia, and Jun Factor completed Blue Haus' scoring, tallying 6 markers apiece. Ferdie Tobias paced Armatech with his 19 points, while Bernard Montano had a quiet 11 markers. Rommel Bartolo also finished in double figures, but his 11 points came when the game was already decided.

Meanwhile, Bammy's Restaurant recovered from its debut loss to Blue Haus after slipping past KB Hite, 82-76.

Down by 5 after three quarters, 57-62, Bammy's saved the best for last, sizzling for 30 points in the fourth quarter to steal the victory from KB Hite.

Jun Tabora's guns were blazing in the final frame, as he knocked in 17 points and outscored the entire KB Hite crew, which tallied only 14 markers. Tabora logged 7 straight points early in the fourth period to lead Bammy's rally and capped off his strong finish by drilling 8 of the team's last 9 markers.

Tabora had a game-high 32 points to lead all scorers, while Alex Ocampo contributed 14, including 9 consecutive points bridging the closing minutes of the third and the opening seconds of the fourth.

Randy Mungcal led KB Hite's losing cause with his 18 points, but he was held to one field goal in the fourth quarter meltdown.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Blue Haus' Tony Diaz pulls up for a shot against Armatech's Bong Malasarte during the third quarter of their game in the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

First Game

Bammy's 82 – J. Tabora 32, Ocampo 17, De Guzman 7, Saplan 6, D. Tabora 5, Sampang 5, Alipio 4, Catalla 2, Zapata 1.

KB Hite 76 – Mungcal 18, Sison 15, Yalung 9, Montes 8, Verano 7, Duenas 6, Pineda 5, Demapan 4.

Scoring by quarters: 14-18, 42-41, 57-62, 82-76.

Second Game

Blue Haus 88 – Diaz 18, Santos 12, Moises 12, Mendoza 11, Guiab 11, Buenabajo 6, Valencia 6, Factor 6.

Armatech 72 – Tobias 19, Montano 11, Bartolo 11, Tolentino 7, Malasarte 6, Gabaldon 4, Abuy 4, Manalili 1.

Scoring by quarters: 23-10, 45-30, 67-51, 88-72.

Teachers vs Veterans for Rocball title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Teachers survived the Benchwarmers in the deciding Game 3 of their semis series to punch the last ticket to the finals of the 2014-2015 Saipan Rocball League.

The Teachers, composed of Tyce Mister, Nick Gross, and the husband-and-wife tandem of Jacoby and Kathy Winkfield, pulled off a 49-23 overtime win against the Benchwarmers last Tuesday at the Marianas High School last week to set a finals date with the Veterans.

Game 1 of the best-of-five title series will be played on Monday.

Game 3 of the Teachers-Benchwarmers semis showdown went to overtime as the latter came back to life in the fourth set with a 13-5 win. The Teachers swept the first three sets, 12-0, 12-5, 13-3, but failed to get the juiced-out win as the Benchwarmers fought back in the last set. After four sets, the Teachers led, 42-21, but since Rocball rules allow the leading team to win if it also prevails in the fourth set, the game had to be played in overtime.

In the extension, the first team to score 6 points while in service wins. The Teachers got its sixth point, but it was off the Benchwarmers' service so the former needed another point to take the overtime victory, 7-2, and wrap up the semis series.

The win was an upset for the Teachers, as they entered the semis series seeded fourth, while the Benchwarmers were ranked first after going unbeaten in the regular season.

The Benchwarmers then absorbed its first loss in the league after the Teachers won Game 1 of their semis fuel, 54-30, The Benchwarmers averted a Teachers sweep, prevailing in Game 2, which also went in overtime, 56-49.

Earlier, the Teachers' finals foes, the Veterans needed only two games to eliminate Local Motion and marched into the finals first. The Veterans won Games 1 and 2 last week, 56-28 and 47-41.

Veteran coach to hold Level 2 clinic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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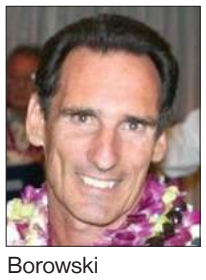
REPORTER

A seasoned and world-renowned coach will be on island next month to conduct a FINA Level 2 coaching course.

Steve Borowski will fly to Saipan from Hawaii to serve as instructor of a coaching course from March 16 to 18 and is expected to share his vast knowledge not only to local coaches, but also to visiting mentors, as the three-day clinic will be held after Saipan Swim Club hosts the 2015 International Invitational Swim Meet.

"I am pleased to announce that NMI will be hosting a FINA Level 2 coaches clinic on Saipan on March 16 to 18. The clinic will take place on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday immediately following SSC's international meet and ocean swim. Steve Borowski will be the instructor. We are very fortunate to have a facilitator with such amazing experience and credentials. I hope that many of the off-island coaches will be able to extend their stay on Saipan for this great opportunity," Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation president John Hirsh wrote in an email circulated to local and off-island clubs.



Borowski

Borowski's long and impressive list of accomplishments includes induction to the Hawaii Swimming Hall of Fame, Illinois Water Polo Hall of Fame, and Chicago High School Sports Hall of Fame.

He has more than 60 years of experience in coaching in local, state, regional, national, and international levels and serves as assistant coach to Mark Spitz and Gary Hall Sr. and other U.S. Olympic Team swimmers leading up to the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich.

Borowski was also an accomplished swimmer and water polo player. He swam for Indiana University and helped the team win back-to-back NCAA championships (1968 and 1968). He was part of the 400m medley relay team that set an NCAA record in 1969.

When he was 50, Borowski marked several World, National, and State records in 50-and-over 50m freestyle and 50m butterfly races. He had the same feats when he turned 55 and swam 50m and 100m butterfly events.

In water polo, he was a College All-American and was part of the team that went unbeaten for two years in Big 10. Borowski also competed in the 1964 Olympic trials.

The veteran mentor is a member of various coaches associations in the U.S. and was repeatedly sought to call the shots for national teams of Australia, Hong Kong, and Monaco, but begged off to coach in Hawaii. Borowski is the founder and still the coach of Kealakehe High School Swim Team, which he established 12 years ago.

Borowski's coaching course on Saipan will be divided into five sessions. The first one that will last for three hours will focus on introduction and governing policies of the sport and the relevant science to understanding teaching the strokes. The second session (four hours) will cover one hour per each stroke, while the third will tackle starts in all four strokes (one and a half hours). The last two sessions will discuss turns in all four strokes plus the individual medley (one a half hours) and teaching skills and methods for coach and test (three hours).

The entire course will cover 13 hours with Session 1 set for March 16, Sessions 2 to 4 the whole day of March 17, and the last on March 18.

Curry scores 51, Warriors rally from 22 down to stun Mavs

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4 teams gain win in M-League opener

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Thundercats player goes up for a header during their Division 2 game against Kanoa Football Club in the opening week of M-League's spring season last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four teams got off to good starts as they prevailed in the opening week of M-League's spring season.

Paire Football Club and Inter Godfather's kicked off the hostilities in Northern Mariana Islands Football Association's premier men's league with the former escaping with a 1-0 victory in their Division 1 game last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Yogesh Singh scored the lone goal in the opening game, as he found the back of the net in the 70th minute.

In the second game, 2014 Cup champion MP United walloped Korean Football Association, 4-0, in another Division 1 pairing.

Four different players made it to the board for MP United with NMIFA technical director Kiyoshi Sekiguchi starting things off for MPU with his shot off a penalty kick in the second half. MP United's three other goals were also recorded in the final half with Jireh Yobech, the returning Dakota Hall, and Joe Miller lighting up the board.

In the third and final Division 1 matchup for Week 1, Tan Holdings Football Club cruised to a 5-1 win over perennial contender Wild Bill's.

Sean Perez starred in Tan Holdings' victory after registering his first hat-trick of the season. Perez, the hero in the CNMI U 18 National Team's 2-0 win over Japan Soccer College in last Tuesday's friendly, scored his three goals in succession in the second half. His first came in the 65th minute, stretching Tan Holdings' lead to 3-1. The second and third were posted in

See 4 TEAMS on Page 30

Falcons' Jones holds down Starz in 10th

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Closer Dave Jones pitched two shutout innings to lift the Falcons to a 16-10 win over the North Starz in another extra inning game in the Saipan Baseball League last Wednesday night at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

The win was the third for the Falcons, the 2007 SBL champions, to join reigning titlists GSM Brewers on top of the standings. The Starz, after a 10-4 triumph against the Jets last week, dropped to 1-3.

Jones gave up one hit, a single to E.J. Tenorio in the bottom of the ninth, with no walks while striking out four. He quickly retired the Starz's batting order in the 10th to end their opponents' comeback bid.

It was a seesaw battle with the North Starz enjoying a 10-6 lead heading into the top of the seventh. They never scored after that while their bullpen scored 10 times including a six-run 10th-inning barrage.

The Falcons scored six runs in the top of the 10th with Darren Pua leading off with a walk, advanced to second on a wild pitch, and scored on a

See FALCONS on Page 30

JON PEREZ
Falcons pitcher Ton Benavente waits for catcher Peter Lieto's signal in their game against the North Starz in the 2015 Saipan Baseball League last Wednesday night at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Southern JV sweeps Kagman

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

SIS
A Saipan International School player prepares to serve in their junior varsity game in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Volleyball League.

Saipan Southern High School swept Kagman High School in back-to-back games last Tuesday in the junior varsity division of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Volleyball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Southern, in the first match they played, bounced back from an opening-set loss in completing a hard-earned 22-25, 25-20, 18-16 win.

The Lady Manta Rays had a little bit easier time in beating the Lady Ayuyus in the next game, 25-20, 25-16.

Southern and Kagman were originally scheduled to play one game but organizers squeezed in the make-up match that was cancelled last Jan. 15 where the Ayuyus encountered problems with their transportation.

The consecutive wins improved Southern's standing to 5-2, while Kagman absorbed its seventh loss in eight games.

See SOUTHERN on Page 30